9/6/Final

FINAL

YUMA DISTRICT
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

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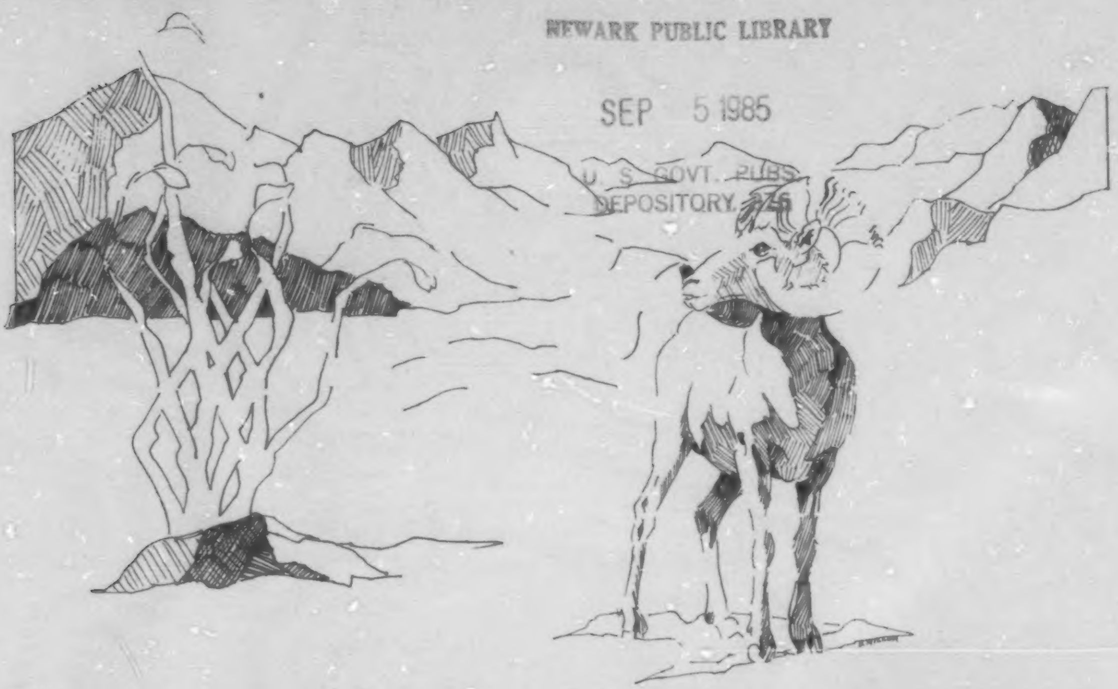

and Environmental Impact Statement

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Arizona

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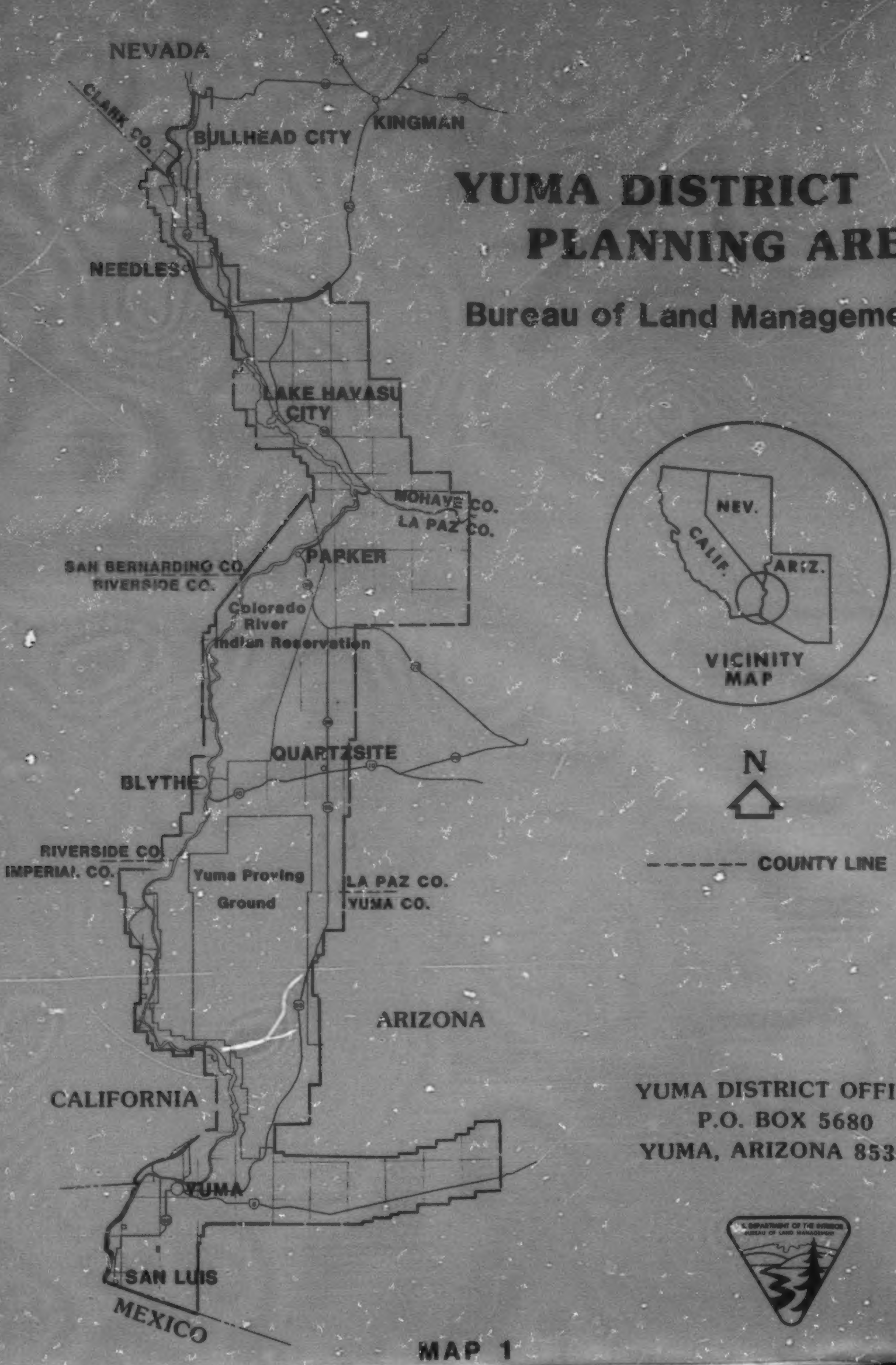
Bureau of Land Management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YUMA DISTRICT OFFICE
P.O. BOX 5680
YUMA, ARIZONA 85364

MAP 1

IN REPLY REFER TO:
1601 (YDO)

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
YUMA DISTRICT OFFICE
3150 Windsor Avenue
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85365

August, 1985

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review is the final environmental impact statement for the Yuma District Resource Management Plan (RMP-EIS). The draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was published in January 1985, and the 90-day public comment period ended April 19. Changes based on public comments and new information have been incorporated into this final RMP-EIS and all portions of the draft, excluding the wilderness appendix, have been reprinted in order to portray those changes. This final RMP-EIS includes the preferred alternative which is the BLM's proposed action.

This final RMP-EIS does not make any recommendations concerning the suitability of wilderness study areas (WSAs) for designation as wilderness. Wilderness recommendations will be reported in a separate EIS covering Yuma District WSAs and a number of other BLM-administered WSAs in Arizona.

All parts of this proposed plan may be protested. Protests should be sent to the Director (202), Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, 18th and C Streets NW, Washington D.C. 20240, within the 30-day protest period. Protest statements should contain the following information:

-The name, mailing address, telephone number and interest of the person filing the protest.

-A statement of the issue or issues being protested.

-A statement of the part or parts of the plan being protested.

-A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that were submitted during the planning process by the protesting party and/or an indication of the date the issue or issues were discussed for the record.

-A short, concise statement explaining why the BLM State Director's decision is believed to be wrong.

At the end of the 30-day protest period, the proposed plan, excluding any portions under protest, will become final. Approval will be withheld on any portion of the plan under protest until final action has been completed on such protest. Any significant change to the proposed plan made as a result of a protest will be available for public review and comment prior to final plan approval and implementation. The final Resource Management Plan will be published with the record of decision in late 1985.

Sincerely,

J. Darwin Snell

J. Darwin Snell
District Manager

READEX
FICHE

United States Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management

YUMA DISTRICT
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
and
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

This *Final Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* (RMP-EIS) addresses future management options for approximately 1,192,000 acres of federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management through its Yuma District Office in Yuma, Arizona. The plan focuses on resolving the following six resource management issues: wildlife habitat, special management areas, grazing, land ownership adjustment, rights-of-way and recreation. The wilderness issue, which appeared in the draft RMP-EIS, will be covered in a separate environmental document to be prepared in 1986 for the 22 Yuma District WSAs and a number of other BLM-administered WSAs in Arizona.

Six alternatives are described and analyzed. The *preferred alternative*, representing a balance between resource production and environmental protection, is the Resource Management Plan and was derived from the five other alternatives. *Alternative A*, the no action alternative, is a continuation of present management direction. *Alternative B* represents maximum use and production of economic resources. *Alternative C* is balanced resource use with economic values favored somewhat over environmental concerns. *Alternative D* is balanced resource use with environmental protection favored somewhat over economic production. *Alternative E* represents maximum protection of the natural environment. A description of the affected environment and an analysis of the environmental impacts of the alternatives is included in this final EIS.

For further information, contact Dennis Turowski, Planning Team Leader, BLM, Yuma District Office, P. O. Box 5680, Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697; Telephone (602) 726-6300.

Date by which protests must be received:

Within 30 days of the date of publication of the Notice
of Availability by the Environmental Protection Agency
in the Federal Register.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO READER

This final Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP-EIS) contains several changes from the draft RMP-EIS. Final wilderness recommendations have been deferred to a separate wilderness EIS to be prepared in 1986 (see *Issue 7: Wilderness* in Chapter 1). In addition, several changes have been made to the alternatives as a result of public comments and further BLM review. By alternative, the major changes are:

Preferred Alternative

Area to be managed under special management prescriptions increased from 149,905 to 155,705 acres as a result of adding Milpitas Wash as an SMA, enlarging the Gibraltar Mountain SMA, and deleting a portion of the Cactus Plain SMA to accommodate corridor UC-6B

Future management of Havasu Heights North and Havasu Heights South ephemeral allotments to be determined through further review following approval of RMP

Public lands available for disposal increased from 45,480 to 55,490 acres as a result of adding three new disposal areas (Areas 10–12 totaling 12,330 acres) and deleting Area 9 (2,400 acres)

Parker-Blaisdell corridor (UC-6B) alignment and width adjusted along certain portions to avoid Parker Strip recreational developments and Disposal Area 11

Mohawk Pass added as ninth designated communication site and an objective added to phase out Black Peak as a designated communication site

ORV management objectives clarified by including a definition for "existing roads and trails" and setting priorities for roads and trails inventories

Alternative B

Area to be managed under special management prescriptions reduced from 124,535 to 116,595 acres as a result of deleting a portion of the Cactus Plain SMA to accommodate corridor UC-6B

Public land available for disposal increased from 45,480 to 57,810 acres as a result of adding three new disposal areas (Areas 10–12 totaling 12,330 acres)

Alternative C

Area to be managed under special management prescriptions increased from 205,305 to 214,880 acres as a result of enlarging the Gibraltar Mountain SMA from 16,280 to 25,260 acres

Mohawk Pass added as a designated communication site

Changes Common to All Alternatives

Riparian acreage to be managed as priority wildlife habitat area reduced from 25,000 to 23,100 acres as a result of land transfer to Cocopah Indian tribe by Congress

Acreage for agricultural permits and leases reduced from 5,030 to 4,205 acres as a result of land transfer to Cocopah Indian tribe by Congress

Enlargement of Imperial Dam Long-Term Visitor Area from six interrelated areas totaling 285 acres to one area of 3,260 acres (see Map 7)

FINAL

YUMA DISTRICT
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN
and
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Yuma, La Paz and Mohave Counties, Arizona

and

San Bernardino, Riverside and Imperial Counties, California

Prepared By

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
YUMA DISTRICT

D. Dean Bibles
State Director
Arizona State Office

AUGUST 1985

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ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations are used in this Environmental Impact Statement. Most of the abbreviations for terms are defined in the glossary.

ACEC:	Area of Critical Environmental Concern
AMP:	Allotment Management Plan
AUM:	Animal-Unit Month
BLM:	Bureau of Land Management
BR:	Bureau of Reclamation
C:	Custodial Category (grazing)
CAP:	Central Arizona Project
CDCA:	California Desert Conservation Area
CEQ:	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR:	Code of Federal Regulations
cfs:	cubic feet per second
COE:	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
CORRP:	California Outdoor Recreation Resources Plan
EA:	Environmental Assessment
EIS:	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA:	Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA:	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FLPMA:	Federal Land Policy and Management Act
FWS:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (also USFWS)
GEM:	Geology-Energy-Mineral Reports
HMP:	Habitat Management Plan
HRA:	Havasu Resource Area
I:	Improve Category (grazing)
IMP:	Interim Management Policy (for areas studied for wilderness recommendations)
KGS:	Known Geologic Structures
LTVA:	Long-term Visitor Area
M:	Maintain Category (grazing)
MFP:	Management Framework Plan
MSA:	Management Situation Analysis
NEPA:	National Environmental Policy Act
NFIP:	National Flood Insurance Program
NWPS:	National Wilderness Preservation System
ONA:	Outstanding Natural Area
ORV:	Off-Road Vehicle
P:	Primitive (ROS Class)
P-E:	Perennial-Ephemeral (grazing allotments)
PILT:	Payments in-lieu of taxes
R&PP:	Recreation and Public Purposes (land leasing)
RMP:	Resource Management Plan
RNA:	Research Natural Area
ROS:	Recreation Opportunities Spectrum
ROW:	Rights-of-Way
SCORP:	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
SCS:	Soil Conservation Service
SMA:	Special Management Areas
SPNM:	Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (ROS Class)
SRMA:	Special Recreation Management Area
T&E:	Threatened and Endangered
USDA:	U.S. Department of Agriculture
USDI:	U.S. Department of Interior
USFS:	U.S. Forest Service
USFWS:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (also FWS)
USGS:	U.S. Geological Survey
WSA:	Wilderness Study Area
YRA:	Yuma Resource Area

SUMMARY

This final Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement contains several changes from the draft RMP-EIS. Final wilderness recommendations have been deferred to a separate wilderness EIS to be prepared in 1986 for all 22 Yuma District WSAs and a number of other BLM-administered WSAs in Arizona (see *Issue 7: Wilderness* in Chapter 1). In addition, several changes have been made to the Preferred and other alternatives as a result of public comment and further BLM review. The major changes to alternatives are:

1) **Identification of three additional areas as available for disposal (Areas 10–12 totaling 12,330 acres) in the *Preferred Alternative* and *Alternative B***
2) **deletion of Area 9 (approximately 2,400 acres) as a disposal area under the *Preferred Alternative***
3) **addition of a Mohawk Pass communications site in the *Preferred Alternative* and *Alternative C***
4) **addition of Milpitas Wash as an area to be managed under special management prescriptions in the *Preferred Alternative***
5) **adjustment of the Parker-Blaisdell corridor (UC–6B) alignment and width along certain portions to avoid Parker Strip recreation developments and Disposal Area 11**
6) **future management of the two Havasu Heights ephemeral grazing allotments would be determined through further review in the *Preferred Alternative***
7) **addition of definition for "existing roads and trails" and clarification of ORV management objectives in the *Preferred Alternative***
8) **enlargement of the Imperial Dam Long-Term Visitor Area boundaries (see Map 7).**

The final *Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement* (RMP-EIS) identifies and analyzes options for managing public lands in the Yuma District. The planning area encompasses 1,192,000 acres of federal lands that straddle the Lower Colorado River in southwest Arizona and southeast California. Map 1 shows the planning area and its land ownership patterns. The lands and their associated resources are described in Chapter 3. The Yuma District RMP-EIS was prepared in accordance with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) planning regulations and under the authority of the *Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976* (FLPMA).

The RMP-EIS process is issue-driven. This means that the focus of the Yuma District planning effort is to resolve six major issues and concerns brought forth by the public, other agencies and BLM staff. The planning issues are summarized below and described in greater detail in Chapter 1. Yuma District's public participation effort, which provided the basis for developing the issues, is described in Chapter 5.

ISSUE 1: Wildlife Habitat. What public lands should be managed with primary emphasis on wildlife habitat?

ISSUE 2: Special Management Areas. What natural, cultural and scenic resources should be designated as special management areas?

ISSUE 3: Grazing. What number of livestock could graze public lands without overusing the range resource?

ISSUE 4: Land Ownership Adjustment. What federal lands should be earmarked for disposal and non-federal lands for acquisition?

ISSUE 5: Rights-of-Way. Where should BLM designate utility corridors and communication sites to handle future development?

ISSUE 6: Recreation. Which public lands will be allocated for recreational uses and what is BLM's role in providing recreation?

The six issues raised at the outset of the plan helped streamline the process by pointing out areas where special attention was needed and by eliminating non-controversial resources and uses from study. Those uses and resources would continue to be managed as they are at present. The planning issues are described in greater detail in Chapter 1.

A range of six alternatives was developed by Yuma District's interdisciplinary planning team to respond to these six issues. Each alternative represents a complete and feasible plan for managing public lands in the district over the next 10 to 20 years. The range of alternatives is listed below:

1) *Preferred Alternative* — proposed RMP
2) *Alternative A* — no action; continuation of present management
3) *Alternative B* — resource production
4) *Alternative C* — balanced resource use; production
5) *Alternative D* — balanced resource use; protection
6) *Alternative E* — resource protection

The management actions set forth in Alternatives A through E were analyzed for their environmental effects on 13 resources (see Chapter 4, *Introuction*). On the basis of this analysis and decisions made by the district's management team, a Preferred Alternative was developed representing BLM's best estimate of an optimum multiple-use mix for public lands in Yuma District. This alternative combines or modifies actions proposed in the other five alternatives (see Chapter 2). The management actions in all six alternatives and the impacts of these actions are summarized in Tables S–1 and S–2.

TABLE S-1: COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

ISSUE/SUBISSUE	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection
ALTERNATIVE THEMES	Balance competing demands by providing for development of needed resources while protecting important and sensitive environmental values.	Continue existing management under Management Framework Plans (MFPs) and other resource activity plans.	Maximize resources production while providing only the minimal environmental protection measures required by law.	Provide balanced use of consumptive and non-consumptive resources. However, economic production is favored slightly over environmental concerns.	Provide balanced use of consumptive and non-consumptive resources. However, protection of natural and cultural values is favored slightly over economic values.	Maximize protection of the natural and cultural environment.
WILDLIFE HABITAT	Wildlife habitat would be a priority consideration on approximately 247,740 acres.	Wildlife habitat would continue to be a priority consideration on approximately 183,740 acres.	Wildlife habitat would not be a recognized priority on public lands except where threatened and endangered species are involved.	Wildlife habitat would be a priority consideration on approximately 41,880 acres.	Wildlife habitat would be a priority consideration on approximately 247,740 acres.	Wildlife habitat take priority over consumptive uses on public lands, generally. 285,500 acres are identified as key wildlife habitat.
	Allowable uses on priority wildlife habitat areas would include only those activities compatible with wildlife habitat or those uses whose impacts can be mitigated in such a way that wildlife values are preserved or enhanced.	Uses and developments on priority wildlife habitat would continue to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to ensure compatibility with wildlife habitat objectives.	All land uses and development needs would take priority over wildlife habitat except where threatened and endangered species are involved.	Allowable uses would be the same as in the Preferred Alternative.	Allowable uses would be the same as in the Preferred Alternative.	Allowable uses would be the same as in the Preferred Alternative except that priority habitat would be withdrawn from mineral entry.
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS						
a) Cultural Resources	Cultural resources on 33 areas totaling about 6,800 acres would be managed under the "conservation for future" use category, i.e., preserved in place.	Cultural resources would continue to be managed at present levels and protected as required by law.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative. Also all areas would be withdrawn from non-compatible uses such as mining and ORV use.

TABLE S-1 (Cont'd)
COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES

ISSUE/SUBISSUE	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection
b) Natural Areas and Features	Designate two areas (31,360 acres) as special management areas: six other areas (155,705 acres) would be managed under special prescriptions to protect their	Six areas identified in the 1975 MFPs (102,600 acres) would be designated special management areas; four other areas identified in the MFPs (56,950 acres) would be managed under special prescriptions to protect their natural values.	No areas would be designated but three areas (116,595 acres) would be managed under special prescriptions to protect their natural values.	No areas would be designated but 12 areas (214,880 acres) would be managed under special prescriptions to protect their natural values.	Designate twelve areas (214,880 acres) as special management areas.	Designate fifteen areas (256,660 acres) as special management areas.
GRAZING	Authorize 3,998 animal-unit months on four perennial-ephemeral (P-E) allotments. Temporary sonal use authorizations would be considered to utilize big gallete grass when it is green and palatable on these allotments. Eight ephemeral allotments would continue to be managed under the special ephemeral rule and two would be reviewed to determine future use.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Authorized use on four perennial-ephemeral allotments would be increased by 3,756 AUMs to 7,754 animal nificant amount of this would be through seasonal authorizations to utilize big galleta grass when green and palatable. Ten ephemeral allotments would be managed under the special ephemeral rule.	Same as Preferred Alternative except ten ephemeral allotments would continue to be managed under the special ephemeral rule.	Authorized use on four perennial-ephemeral allotments would be reduced by 1,539 to 2,459 animal-unit months. Temporary non-renewable seasonal use authorizations would be considered to utilize big galleta grass when it is green and palatable. Ten ephemeral allotments would be managed under the special ephemeral rule.	Grazing would not be an authorized use on the Yuma District. All permits and licenses would be cancelled and all forage would be allocated to wildlife or wild horses and burros.
LAND OWNERSHIP ADJUSTMENTS						
a) Disposals	55,490 acres of federal lands would be available for disposal.	All federal lands in Areas 1 and 2 and north of Interstate 40 would be available for	57,810 acres of federal lands would be available for disposal.	45,480 acres of federal lands would be available for disposal.	41,840 acres of federal lands would be available for disposal.	All federal lands would be retained in public ownership.

TABLE S-1 (Cont'd)
COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES

ISSUE/SUBISSUE	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection
b) Acquisitions	BLM would attempt to acquire 31,220 acres through exchange to benefit federal programs.	BLM would attempt to acquire 26,620 acres through exchange to benefit federal programs.	BLM would attempt to acquire 4,320 acres through exchange to benefit federal programs.	BLM would attempt to acquire 10,080 acres through exchange to benefit federal programs.	BLM would attempt to acquire 44,100 acres through exchange to benefit federal programs.	BLM would attempt to acquire 29,960 acres through exchange to benefit federal programs.
RIGHTS-OF-WAY FOR UTILITY CORRIDORS AND COMMUNICATION SITES						
a) Utility Corridors	Designate nine utility corridors (307 total miles) all one-mile wide except for Interstate 40 which would be two-miles wide and parts of the Parker-Blaisdell corridor which would be one-half mile wide.	Designate five one-mile-wide utility corridors (219 total miles) in accordance with the 1975 MFPs.	No corridors designated.	Designate nine utility corridors (288 total miles); all except Interstate 40 would be one-mile wide.	Designate nine utility corridors (290 total miles); all except Interstate 40 would be one-mile wide.	Same as Alternative D except that the CDCA "F" corridor would be narrower.
b) Communication Sites	Nine sites (101.3 total acres) would be designated. However, Black Peak site would eventually be phased out.	Seven sites identified in the MFPs (83.3 total acres) would be designated.	No communication sites designated.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Six sites (74.3 acres) would be designated.	Same as Alternative D.
	New facilities would be located in designated corridors and sites unless evaluation of project shows location outside a designated area is the only practical alternative.	New facilities would be located in designated corridors and sites where feasible.	No corridors or sites would be designated; however, as much public land as possible would be made available for ROW purposes.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No facilities would be allowed to locate outside designated areas.

TABLE S-1 (Cont'd)
COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES

ISSUE/SUBISSUE	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection
RECREATION						
a) General Objectives	Provide a mix of BLM, other public agency and private facilities through long-term leases to ensure recreation opportunities for a broad range of recreating publics. All recreation lands except Pittsburg Point would be retained in federal ownership. Provide additional federal lands for recreation where warranted by increased demand.	Recreation use would continue to be managed as directed in the 1975 MFPs. Basically, same as Preferred Alternative except that recreation facilities would be designed to accommodate existing use but not to encourage additional use.	Maximize recreational opportunities and developments. BLM operated day-use and fee sites on the Parker Strip and Squaw Lake would leased to concessioners. Provide additional federal lands for recreation to meet needs of users or operators.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Provide a mix of facilities as described in the Preferred Alternative, but only in existing recreation sites where no severe resource degradation or management problems occur. All recreation lands would be retained in federal ownership. No expansion onto additional federal lands would be authorized.	Manage public lands primarily for primitive recreation. Provide intensive types of recreation in only a few existing developed areas where no resource degradation or management problems occur. Concessions would eventually be phased out; all remaining recreation sites would be operated by BLM. All recreation lands would be retained in federal ownership. No expansion onto additional federal lands would be authorized.
b) Recreation Management in Floodplains	On Parker Strip, only day-use facilities would be allowed in the 100-year floodplain; new overnight facilities would be located outside the floodplain. On the remainder of the river only those new facilities that can be floodproofed would be allowed in the 100-year floodplain. Existing permanent structures would be phased out.	Floodplain regulations would continue to be applied on a case-by-case basis.	Only those new and existing permanent facilities that can be floodproofed would be allowed in the 100-year floodplain. Other permanent facilities that are not or cannot be floodproofed would be relocated outside of the 100-year floodplain.	Floodplain provisions would be the same as in Alternative B.	Only day-use floodproofed facilities would be allowed within the 100-year floodplain. All other other existing facilities would be removed from the 100-year floodplain.	No recreational facilities would be allowed on public lands within the 100-year floodplain in the river corridor. All existing facilities would be removed from the 100-year floodplain.

TABLE S-1 (Cont'd)
COMPARATIVE SUMMARY OF ALTERNATIVES

ISSUE/SUBISSUE	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection
c) Management of Concessions and Leases	Current concessions and leases would continue to be operated by private or other public agencies. Additional federal lands would be available for expansion of concessions or leases based upon a demonstrated need and economic feasibility. Pittsburg Point would be available for transfer to the State of Arizona and Lake Havasu City.	BLM would continue to lease 14 recreation areas for concessions in the district. Three areas would continue to be leased for state park management and six sites would continue to be leased for county park operation. Applications for the expansion of existing concessions would continue to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.	Same as Preferred Alternative except that: no undue limitations would be placed on the expansion of concession and lease areas onto adjacent federal land; BLM day-use and fee sites on Parker Strip and Squaw Lake would be turned over for concession operation.	Same as Preferred Alternative except that Pittsburg Point would be retained in federal ownership.	Current concessions and leases would continue to be operated by private or other public agencies. No leases for new concessions or public recreation areas would be issued; no expansion of concessions onto adjacent public lands. Existing developments would be removed from areas with severe resource degradation.	BLM would phase out all concessions and leases on public lands. No leases for new concessions or public recreation areas would be issued.
	BLM would regulate the type and intensity of development that occurs on leased lands.	The type or intensity development on existing concessions and leases would continue to be analyzed on a case-by-case basis.	BLM would not restrict either the type or intensity of development that occurs on leased lands.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	No concessions or leases.
	Continuous occupancy of mobile home sites restricted to one five-month period in a single year; permanent residential use would be phased out.	BLM would encourage a shift from year-round mobile home sites to RV sites in concessions and leases.	Permanent year-round mobile home sites allowed in concession areas.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	No concessions or leases.
d) Off-Road Vehicle Use	Designate 640 acres as open to ORV use, 22,420 acres as closed, 1,168,940 as limited to roads and trails.	Interim ORV use designations would continue to be assigned to 751,760 acres.	Designate all public lands as open for ORV use.	Designate all public lands as open for ORV use, except in designated sensitive areas (270,285 acres) where ORV use would be limited.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	ORV use on all public lands in the district would eventually be limited to designated roads and trails only.

SOURCE: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1985.

TABLE S-2: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection
AIR QUALITY, SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES	Air quality, soils and water resources would not be significantly affected under any alternative.					
CULTURAL RESOURCES	17,200 acres with known cultural resources sensitivity protected.	5,860 acres with known cultural resources sensitivity protected.	1,500 acres with known cultural resources sensitivity protected.	20,000 acres with known cultural resources sensitivity protected.	20,235 acres with known cultural resources sensitivity protected.	22,270 acres with known cultural resources sensitivity protected.
MINERALS AND ENERGY	6,800 acres (less than 1% of district) withdrawn from mineral entry.	No public lands withdrawn from mineral entry.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	508,890 acres (43% of district) withdrawn from mineral entry.
	No surface occupancy for oil & gas leasing on 17,900 acres (1.6% of district).	Surface occupancy allowed district-wide.	Same as Alternative A.	No surface occupancy for oil & gas leasing on 111,075 acres (less than 10% of district).	No surface occupancy for oil & gas leasing on 214,860 acres (17% of district).	No surface occupancy for oil & gas leasing on 508,890 acres (43% of district).
RANGELAND RESOURCES	Forage production would increase by 3,756 AUMs in the long term (94% over current preference). Special management area restrictions on the Cactus Plain and land disposals could prevent livestock use of 3,400 AUMs in the long term.	No change to forage production would occur under this Alternative.	Forage production would increase by 4,652 AUMs in the long term (116% over current preference). Land disposals could could prevent livestock use of 1,000 AUMs in the long term.	Effects on forage production would be the same as in the Preferred Alternative.	Forage production would increase by 1,756 AUMs in the long term (44% over current preference). Special management area restrictions on the Cactus Plain could prevent livestock use of 2,400 AUMs in the long term.	Forage production consisting of 8,650 AUMs would be lost in the short & long term.
RECREATION RESOURCES						
Colorado River Recreation Opportunities	Long-term increase in number of developed recreation opportunities would occur.	No change in number of developed recreation opportunities would occur.	Overall long-term increase in developed recreation opportunities, but loss of 5,000 visitor days of day-use opportunities per year.	Long-term increase in developed recreation opportunities.	No short-term change in number of developed recreation opportunities.	Long-term decrease in developed recreation opportunities (80,000 visitor days lost annually).

TABLE S-2 (Cont'd)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection
	No noticeable change in users/clientele.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Substantial change in users/clientele could occur due to shift in types of recreation facilities provided, elimination of day-use opportunities, ORV-related noise and safety conditions.	Moderate change in users/clientele could occur due to ORV-related noise & safety conditions.	Moderate change in users/clientele could occur due to overcrowding & declining attractiveness of existing developed recreation sites.	Substantial change in users/clientele could occur due to overcrowding & declining attractiveness of developed recreation sites remaining open under this alternative.
	Future demand for developed recreation opportunities would be satisfied.	Some future growth in demand for developed recreation opportunities would not be met.	Future demand for developed recreation opportunities would be satisfied except some day-use & resource-based recreation demands.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Future growth in demand for developed recreation opportunities would not be met.	Some present & all future growth in demand for developed recreation opportunities would not be met.
	Losses in developed recreation opportunities could result if Pittsburg Point is transferred to Arizona.		Losses in developed recreation opportunities could result if Pittsburg Point is transferred to Arizona.			
Long-Term Visitor Areas	Attractiveness of present recreation use areas would be maintained due to regulating wood cutting & collection.	Attractiveness of present recreation use areas would decline in the long term due to wood cutting & collection.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative except some decline in attractivity due to overcrowding.
NATURAL AREAS & FEATURES	Unique natural features on 68,190 acres would benefit from priority wildlife habitat management.	Unique natural features on 43,740 acres would be indirectly protected by management of priority wildlife habitat areas.		Unique natural features on 15,340 acres would benefit from priority wildlife habitat management.	Unique natural features on 59,100 acres would benefit from priority wildlife habitat management.	Unique natural features on 73,555 acres would benefit from priority wildlife habitat management.
	Unique natural features in the Cactus Plain and La Posa Plain areas would be adversely impacted by continued grazing use.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Unique natural features in the Cactus Plain area would be adversely impacted by continued grazing use.	Same as Alternative C.	Unique natural features in the Cactus Plain and La Posa Plain areas would benefit from the elimination of grazing.

TABLE S-2 (Cont'd)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection
VEGETATION						
Riparian	23,100 acres would receive long-term protection.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Long-term adverse impacts could occur from not protecting 23,100 acres.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
Candidate T&E Plants	Potential long-term beneficial impacts on 6 candidate species; potential adverse impacts on 4 species due to ORV & LTVA use.	Potential long-term beneficial impacts on 8 candidate species; potential adverse impacts on 4 species due to LTVA use.	Potential long-term beneficial impacts on 5 candidate species; potential adverse impacts on 10 species due to ORV & LTVA use.	Potential long-term beneficial and adverse impacts on 11 candidate species.	Potential long-term beneficial impacts on 11 candidate species; potential adverse impacts on 4 species due to LTVA use.	Same as Alternative D.
Rangeland Vegetation	Long-term beneficial impacts on plant cover & vegetation condition would occur due to improved distribution of livestock use and more desirable levels of utilization on forage species.	Long-term adverse impacts on vegetation condition would occur due to poor livestock distribution and heavy utilization of vegetation within the areas of livestock concentration.	Long-term beneficial impacts on vegetation would occur due to improved livestock distribution and more desirable levels of utilization of forage species. Plant cover would not change significantly in the long term.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative but vegetation condition would improve at a slower rate.	Significant, long-term beneficial impacts would occur on browse vegetation. Overall plant cover would not significantly change.
VISUAL RESOURCE	No noticeable adverse impacts on visual resources would occur.	Adverse impacts on visual resources from the continuation of current wood collection management in high-use recreation areas.	Adverse impacts on visual resources from intensive grazing of perennial-ephemeral allotments, intensive ORV use in areas designated as open to unrestricted ORV use and continuation of current wood collection management in high-use recreation areas.	Adverse impacts from intensive ORV use in areas designated as open to unrestricted ORV use.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Beneficial impacts on visual resources from prohibiting wood collection in high-use recreation areas.			Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Beneficial impacts on visual resources from phasing out concession leases along the Colorado River and prohibiting wood collection on public lands.

TABLE S-2 (Cont'd)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection
WILDERNESS VALUES	All or portions of 11 WSAs would be protected by priority wildlife habitat management.	All or portions of 6 WSAs would be protected by priority wildlife habitat management.		Portions of 6 WSAs would be protected by priority wildlife habitat management.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	All or portions of 9 WSAs would be protected by special management area considerations.	5 WSAs would be protected by special management area considerations.	All or portions of 5 WSAs would be protected by special management area considerations.	All or portions of 8 WSAs would be protected by special management area considerations.	All or portions of 9 WSAs would be protected by special management area considerations.	All or portions of 10 WSAs would be protected by special management area considerations.
	Adverse impacts from the disposal of 3,325 acres in Cactus Plain WSA.		Adverse impacts from the disposal of 3,325 acres in Cactus Plain WSA.			
	Beneficial impacts from the acquisition of 31,160 acres in and around WSAs.	Beneficial impacts from the acquisition of 23,610 acres in and around WSAs.	Beneficial impacts from the acquisition of 960 acres in WSAs.	Beneficial impacts from the acquisition of 4,000 acres in WSAs.	Beneficial impacts from the acquisition of 36,200 surface acres and 6,020 subsurface acres in and around WSAs.	Beneficial impacts from the acquisition of 28,200 surface acres and 6,020 subsurface acres in and around WSAs.
	Adverse impacts on wilderness values in 10 WSAs due to construction of new facilities in designated utility corridors.	Adverse impacts on wilderness values in 2 WSAs due to construction of new facilities in designated utility corridors.		Adverse impacts on wilderness values in 10 WSAs due to construction of new facilities in designated utility corridors.	Adverse impacts on wilderness values in 11 WSAs due to construction of new facilities in designated utility corridors.	Adverse impacts on wilderness values in 9 WSAs due to construction of new facilities in designated utility corridors.
	Beneficial impacts on wilderness values in all 22 WSAs due to limiting ORV use to existing or designated roads and trails.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Adverse impacts on areas in all 22 WSAs due to unrestricted ORV use.	Adverse impacts on areas in 13 WSAs due to unrestricted ORV use.	Beneficial impacts on wilderness values in all 22 WSAs due to limiting ORV use to existing or designated roads and trails.	Beneficial impacts on wilderness values in all 22 WSAs due to limiting ORV use to designated roads and trails.
				Beneficial impacts on 76,090 acres in 9 WSAs due to limiting ORV use to existing or designated roads and trails.		

TABLE S-2 (Cont'd)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection
WILDLIFE HABITAT	403,525 acres of wildlife habitat would be maintained or improved due to priority wildlife habitat and special management area provisions.	274,950 acres of wildlife habitat would be maintained or improved due to priority wildlife habitat and special management area provisions.	116,595 acres of wildlife habitat would be maintained or improved due to special management area provisions.	246,965 acres of wildlife habitat would be maintained or improved due to priority wildlife habitat and special management area provisions.	442,500 acres of wildlife habitat would be maintained or improved due to priority wildlife habitat and special management area provisions.	568,890 acres of wildlife habitat would be maintained or improved due to priority wildlife habitat and special management area provisions.
	Adverse impacts could occur from disposal of 5,745 acres.	No change in wildlife habitat conditions from disposals.	Adverse impacts could occur from disposal of 8,065 acres.	Adverse impacts could occur from disposal of 3,640 acres.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
	Long-term beneficial impacts would occur from prohibiting wood collection on 7% of the district.	Long-term adverse impacts would occur due to wood collection.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	No noticeable change in habitat condition overall from ORV designations.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Adverse impacts could occur on 1,192,000 acres due to ORV designations & use. Damage to desert tortoise habitat could occur from use of Parker 400 course for multiple events each year.	Adverse impacts could occur on 960,165 acres due to ORV designations & use.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Minor adverse impacts would occur due to grazing.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Major adverse impacts would occur due to increasing authorized grazing use by 94%.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Beneficial impacts would occur due to reducing grazing use by 40%.	Beneficial impacts would occur due to elimination of grazing.
T&E Species	Habitat for the Yuma Clapper Rail would be protected under all alternatives. Other T&E species would also benefit from priority wildlife habitat areas.					
ECONOMICS						
Impacts on Ranchers	Average annual revenue would increase to $45,700 due to increased forage production in the long term. However, special management area provisions and land disposals could reduce this to $36,400.	No significant change in revenue for ranchers would occur. Average annual revenue for ranchers would be $35,380.	Average annual revenue would increase to $47,400 due to increased forage production in the long-term. However, land disposals could reduce this to $46,000.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Average annual revenue for ranchers would be $32,800. Special management area provisions could reduce this to $30,400.	$35,380 in annual revenue would be lost due to elimination of grazing.

TABLE S-2 (Cont'd)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection
Impacts on Recreation Concession & Lease Operators	Annual revenue could decline in the long term due to restricting continuous occupancy to 5 months and phasing out mobile home sites.	Annual revenue could decline in the long term due to encouraging a shift from mobile home to RV and campsites.	No measurable change in revenue in short term, but would probably increase in the long term.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Significant adverse impacts on concession operators would occur due to elimination of concessions and 100% loss of revenues.
Local Economic Impacts	County tax revenues could increase by up to $31,400 annually due to sale of public lands.	County tax revenues would decrease by up to $51,000 due to federal acquisition of lands.	County tax revenues could increase by up to $250,000 due to transfer of public lands out of federal ownership.	County tax revenues could increase by up to $235,200 due to transfer of public lands out of federal ownership.	County tax revenues could decrease by about $6,000 due to federal acquisition of lands.	County tax revenues would decrease by $140,760 due to federal acquisition of lands and elimination of agricultural use on public lands.
	Local retail and service industry receipts could decline due to restricting continuous length of-stay in mobile sites to five months.	Local retail and and service industry receipts could decline due to shift from mobile home sites to RV and campsites.	Local retail and service industry receipts would probably increase as a result of unrestricted development and expansion of the recreation concessions and leases.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Local retail and service industry receipts would decline by about 2.6%.
Regional Economic Impacts		The economic impacts on the region would not be significant under any of the alternatives.				

SOURCE: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1985.

CHAPTER 1

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION

Introduction

This final environmental impact statement (EIS) reflects some changes from and additions to the draft. A list of major changes to the alternatives appears in the *Special Note to Reader* on the page opposite the title page. In addition, the changes and additions have been highlighted in boldface print for the reader's convenience in reviewing the text. Issue 7, wilderness, has been deleted from this final RMP-EIS and will be covered in a separate environmental document to be prepared in 1986.

Location of Planning Area

The Yuma District encompasses an area of 2,658,210 acres along the Lower Colorado River in southwest Arizona and southeast California (see Map 1). Totaling 192 miles in length, this area extends southward from Davis Dam on the Arizona-Nevada border to the international border with Mexico. For the majority of this distance the district forms a narrow strip ranging 5 to 35 miles in width. The southeast portion of the district, however, stretches approximately 45 miles along the Gila River into the Arizona desert.

The Yuma District is divided into two BLM resource areas: Havasu in the north and Yuma in the south. Portions of six counties make up the two resource areas: Yuma, La Paz and Mohave in Arizona; and Imperial, Riverside and San Bernardino in California. In addition, several major communities line the portion of the Colorado and Gila Rivers within the two resource areas (see Map 6). Of the 2,658,210 acres within the district boundaries, approximately 45% (1,192,000 acres) is public land administered by BLM, 16% is privately owned, 5% is state owned and 34% is administered by other federal agencies.

Purpose and Need

The Yuma District Resource Management Plan (RMP) will provide a comprehensive framework for managing public land and resources in Yuma District over the next ten to twenty years. The central focus of the planning effort is to resolve six major land use issues that were identified through the scoping process. To achieve these objectives, the RMP will set production goals, establish land and resource allocations, and provide management guidelines to protect key resource values.

This document includes both a proposed RMP (preferred alternative) and final environmental impact statement (EIS). The EIS analyzes the proposed RMP and the five alternatives to this plan. Final approval of the RMP will satisfy BLM's statutory requirement for a master land-use plan as mandated by Section 202 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA). The RMP will update and supersede land use planning in the 1975 Management Framework Plans (MFPs) for the district. MFP decisions that are not changed by the RMP will continue to apply to public land management in the Yuma District and are described in Chapter 2 under *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives.*

In addition to providing a master plan for the Yuma District, the RMP-EIS analyzes alternatives for livestock grazing on public land as required by a court-ordered agreement resulting from a 1973 lawsuit against the BLM by the Natural Resources Defense Council.

Planning Process

The Yuma District Draft RMP-EIS has been prepared under authority of and in accordance with BLM planning regulations, Sections 202 and 603 of FLPMA, and the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969* (NEPA). Figure 1-1 shows the nine basic actions involved in the BLM planning process. These actions are described in more detail in *Appendix A#1.*

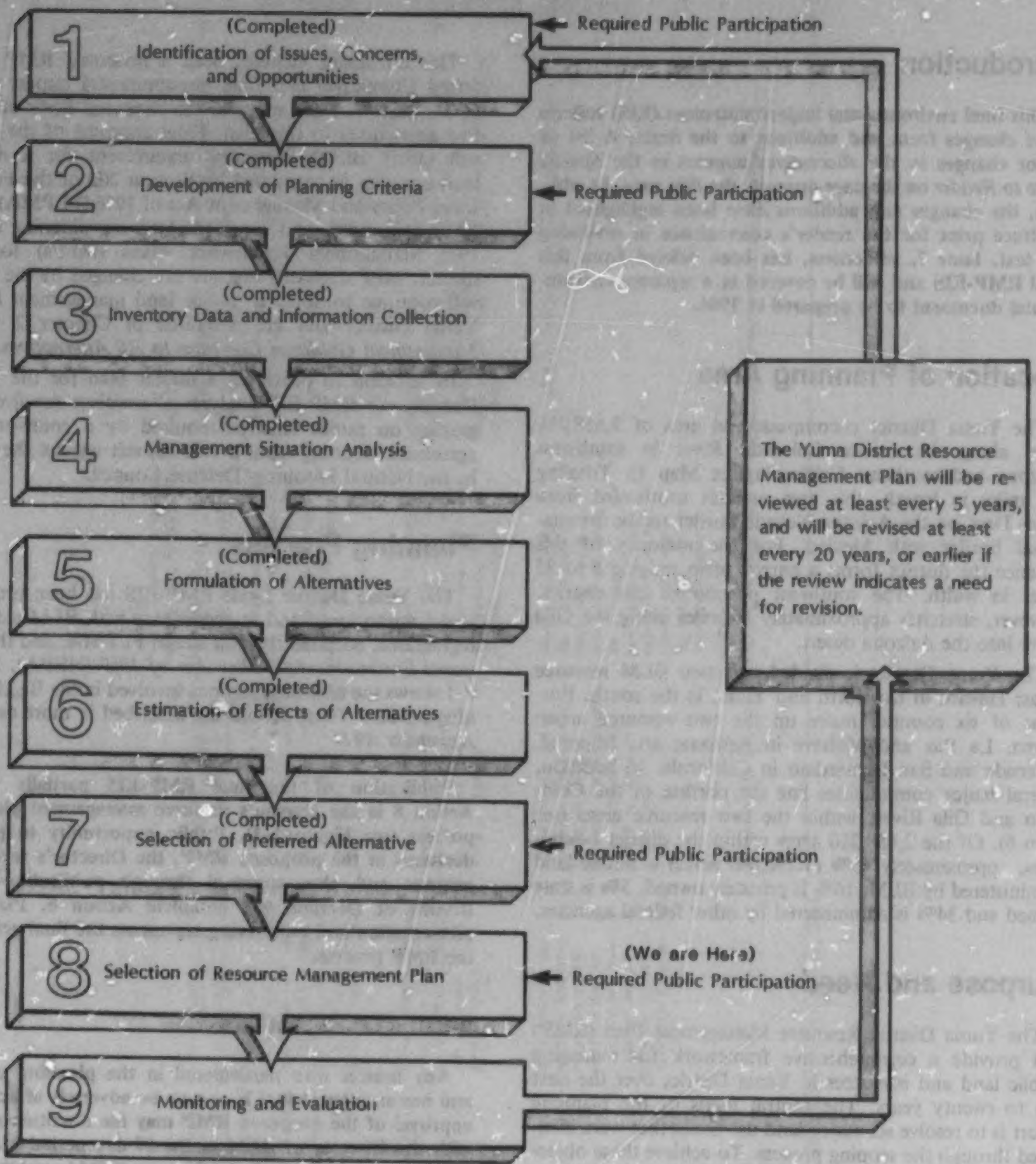
Publication of the final RMP-EIS partially fulfills Action 8 in the Bureau's resource management planning process (see Figure 1-1). Public opportunity to protest decisions in the proposed RMP, the Director's review of protests and plan approval through publication of a Record of Decision will complete Action 8. Plan implementation and monitoring represents the final action in the RMP process.

PROTEST PROCEDURES

Any person who participated in the planning process and has an interest that is or may be adversely affected by approval of the proposed RMP may file a written protest with the Director of BLM in the 30-day period after the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) publishes a notice of receipt of this final RMP-EIS in the *Federal Register.*

FIGURE I-1

The Resource Management Planning Process


1
(Completed)
Identification of Issues, Concerns, and Opportunities
Required Public Participation
2
(Completed)
Development of Planning Criteria
Required Public Participation
3
(Completed)
Inventory Data and Information Collection
4
(Completed)
Management Situation Analysis
5
(Completed)
Formulation of Alternatives
6
(Completed)
Estimation of Effects of Alternatives
7
(Completed)
Selection of Preferred Alternative
Required Public Participation
8
Selection of Resource Management Plan
(We are Here)
Required Public Participation
9
Monitoring and Evaluation
The Yuma District Resource Management Plan will be reviewed at least every 5 years, and will be revised at least every 20 years, or earlier if the review indicates a need for revision.

The protest must contain the name, mailing address, telephone number and interest of the person filing the protest. It must also contain: a statement of the issues being protested; a statement of the parts of the plan being protested; copies of all documents addressing the issues submitted during the planning process by the protesting party, or an indication of the date the issue or issues were discussed for the record; and a concise statement explaining why the State Director's decision is believed to be wrong.

The Director will render a written decision on the protest, setting forth the reasons for the decision. The decision will be sent to the protesting party by certified mail and will be the final decision of the Department of the Interior.

RECORD OF DECISION

The Yuma District RMP will be approved no earlier than 30 days after EPA publishes a notice of receipt of the proposed RMP and final EIS in the *Federal Register*. A Record of Decision will be issued and will be the approval authority for implementing the land use allocations, resource management objectives and other actions contained in this final RMP-EIS. Approval will be withheld on any portion of the plan that is protested until final action is completed on the protests.

A final Resource Management Plan will be printed following issuance of the Record of Decision. The final RMP will describe in detail all of the approved land use and resource management decisions that are proposed in this final EIS. The final RMP will also contain plan implementation priorities and a detailed monitoring plan.

IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

An implementation program and detailed monitoring plan for the approved RMP will be included in the final printed plan.

The implementation program will guide the order in which projects or actions are implemented. These priorities will be tied to the Bureau's budget and will be applied annually to determine the order of projects that will be accomplished.

The monitoring plan will outline programs for evaluating the effectiveness of plan proposals and this EIS. General standards and objectives for monitoring are described in *Monitoring the Resource Management Plan* (Chapter 2).

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN RMP AND ACTIVITY PLANNING

The RMP does not describe or analyze all of the site-specific actions needed for full implementation of its objectives. Such site-specific actions will be identified and implemented during the life of the plan as time and funding permit. These actions will be based upon, and consistent with, the various allocations, objectives and restrictions contained in the resource management plan. Some site-specific actions will be described and analyzed in site-specific activity plans and environmental analyses following approval of the RMP. Examples of activity plans that will be prepared include wildlife habitat management, allotment management, off-road vehicle management and recreation management area plans. Additional environmental analyses will be conducted in conjunction with these site-specific activity plans to supplement the analysis in this final EIS.

Planning Issues and Criteria

SCOPING OF ISSUES

Scoping is the early and open process for determining the range and significance of issues related to a planning area. This process identifies the major planning issues to be analyzed in the EIS on the basis of input from the public, other agencies and BLM resource specialists and managers. In this way scoping reduces the length of the EIS and improves the basis for decision-making by emphasizing the real issues, alternatives and impacts.

Public scoping for the Yuma District planning effort began in the fall of 1981 and involved the several phases described in Chapter 5, Consultation and Coordination. Initially, BLM was preparing an RMP for only the Havasu Resource Area but then added the Yuma Resource Area in May 1983. The decision to prepare an RMP-EIS for the entire district was published in the *Federal Register* on May 4, 1983.

PLANNING ISSUES

An interdisciplinary team of resource specialists reviewed public comments received during scoping to determine the major areas of public interest and concern. The team, together with resource managers, incorporated these major concerns in their analysis of existing BLM management programs and the potential for a) allocating or developing public land resources and uses and b) improving the condition of specific resources. As a result of this analysis, the team identified the seven issues described below for resolution through the RMP process.

1. Wildlife Habitat

Public lands within the district provide habitat for a variety of wildlife species. Off-road vehicle (ORV) use and recreation, minerals and rights-of-way development can be damaging to wildlife habitat if not properly managed. In addition, livestock grazing and range improvements may impact wildlife habitat. Sound management of key habitat areas is critical to conserving present species and populations of wildlife in the district. Needed decisions include:

What public land areas should be managed with priority emphasis on wildlife habitat?

What actions should BLM take to maintain or improve wildlife habitat in these areas? What secondary uses will be allowed in these areas?

2. Special Management Areas

Public lands in Yuma District contain numerous natural and cultural resource sites of regional and national importance. Due to the nature of the resources involved, certain of these sites may deserve special management attention and public recognition. Restrictions on certain uses, or designations such as Area of Critical Environmental Concern, Research Natural Area or Outstanding Natural Area, may be needed to adequately protect these resources. Primary considerations include the effects that restrictive management or designations would have on resource development opportunities. Needed decisions include:

Which, if any, significant natural, cultural, or scenic resources should be protected?

What natural, cultural and scenic resources should be designated as special management areas?

3. Grazing

Yuma District supports portions of 14 grazing allotments on public land. Present grazing systems need to be reviewed from both production opportunity and resource stability standpoints. Management changes may be needed to improve rangeland production and condition or to reduce conflicts between livestock grazing and other important resource uses and values. Range improvements may be needed to enhance the growth of forage plants and to better disperse and manage livestock, as well as to improve watershed conditions and wildlife habitat. Needed decisions include:

What number of livestock could graze without overusing the range resource and still result in healthy populations of animals?

What type and number of rangeland improvements are necessary to enhance the management and condition of the rangeland resource?

4. Land Ownership Adjustments

Special attention is needed to identify those portions of the Yuma District where land ownership adjustments would achieve more efficient management and utilization of public resources. Principal considerations include the proximity of a parcel to other agencies' lands, manageability of public lands, compatibility with adjacent land uses and the effect land ownership adjustments would have on public resource values. Needed decisions include:

Which areas of federal ownership should be earmarked for disposal?

What federal lands should be retained in public ownership?

Where should private/federal/state land exchanges be used to consolidate ownership in order to benefit specific federal management programs?

Where should non-federal surface or subsurface be acquired to benefit specific federal management programs?

5. Rights-of-Way for Utility Corridors and Communication Sites

Increased energy developments in the western states present demands for rights-of-way across public lands to accommodate pipelines, power and utility lines and communication sites. The designation of utility corridors and communication sites will ensure that public lands in Yuma District are available for such uses in the future and, at the same time, minimize proliferation of these facilities on and across the landscape. Special attention needs to be given to identifying public lands suitable for corridors and communication sites and to avoid undesirable impacts to other important resource uses and values. Needed decisions include:

Which of the existing utility rights-of-way should be designated to serve as utility corridors? How wide should these corridors be?

Should additional corridors be identified for anticipated demands that cannot be met by existing routes? If so, where and how wide should these corridors be?

What areas are suitable for designation as communication sites?

6. Recreation

Recreation is a major use of public lands in the Yuma District. The Lower Colorado River is the most important freshwater recreation area in the southwest. An estimated 17 million people can conveniently reach the river within half a day's driving time for boating, fishing, water skiing and other river-related activities (USDI, BLM 1980a).

her popular recreational activities in the Yuma District e ORV use and long-term camping. With intense recrea- nal use comes the potential for impairment of resource lues. In particular, recreation development in some areas ong the Colorado River may conflict with effective odplain management. Needed decisions include:

Which public land/resources will be allocated for recreational use(s)? What is BLM's role in providing recreation on these lands?

What additional recreation sites are needed on public lands? Who should develop and operate these — BLM, state or local agencies, or the private sector?

What are BLM's objectives for recreation management and development on public lands on the Colorado River floodplain?

What will BLM do to reduce or eliminate degradation to land or resources that is caused by recreational use?

Where on public lands will camping, including winter visitor camping, be allowed and what facilities will be provided in these areas? What length-of-stay limitations will be applied to these areas?

Are current interim ORV designations adequate to meet existing needs? Should presently undesignated areas be designated? Should the Parker 400 race course continue to be designated as a competitive use area?

Can commercial and hobby collection of wood products in the Yuma District be permitted within a multiple use/sustained yield framework?

. Wilderness

Wilderness has been deleted as a planning issue in this nal RMP-EIS and will be addressed in a separate en- ronmental document to be prepared in 1986. According- , this RMP-EIS does not make any recommendations oncerning the suitability of the 18 WSAs studied in the raft for wilderness designation by Congress. However, in rder to analyze the impacts of other RMP decisions on ilderness values and to define how WSAs would be man- ged if not designated by Congress, a description of each VSA's wilderness values is provided in Chapter 3 and the fects that RMP decisions would have on these wilderness alues are described in Chapter 4.

BLM's decision to defer recommendations on wilder- ess is a result of a recent court decision (*Sierra Club vs. Vatt*) that reversed a 1982 decision by the Secretary of the nterior to drop all or parts of certain WSAs from further eview. WSAs affected by the Secretary's 1982 decision ave been reinstated to the wilderness review, including hose areas that: a) have split-estate ownership (see *Glos- ary*), b) are less than 5,000 acres in size and c) do not by hemselves possess the characteristics necessary to qualify or wilderness, but instead depend on adjacent units pro- osed or being studied by another agency.

Seven WSAs in the Yuma District have been affected by the recent court decision. Four of these areas (totaling 133,935 acres) were not addressed at all in the draft. Three other WSAs, which were studied in the draft, have had split-estate acreage totaling 55,425 acres added to their areas. Accordingly, there are now 22 WSAs totaling 394,465 acres in the district instead of the 18 WSAs (205,105 acres) addressed in the draft RMP-EIS. (See *Appendix B* for a list of WSAs and their acreage.)

BLM will address the Yuma District WSAs in a separate environmental document to ensure that recommendations for all 22 WSAs are developed simultaneously and in full cognizance of the total wilderness resource base and opportunities. A number of similarly affected BLM-administered WSAs in Arizona will be reviewed in the same document.

NON-PLANNING ISSUES AND RESOURCES

Certain public concerns conveyed through scoping involved issues and resources that were eliminated from detailed study in the RMP-EIS. These non-planning issues include but are not limited to: a) matters outside the scope of BLM's authority, b) day-to-day or site-specific management problems, c) programs for which there is adequate management guidance, d) administrative and legal concerns that are Bureau-wide in scope and e) solutions to issues and decision-making criteria rather than issues to be resolved through planning.

Community expansion was initially identified as a planning issue in order to determine where federal lands could be made available for community expansion needs such as airports, parks, hospitals, community centers and sanitary landfills. However, upon further analysis this issue was dropped from consideration on the basis that all public lands are subject to application for community expansion under a variety of public land laws and regulations (see Chapter 2, *Management Guidance Common — Land Ownership Adjustment*). With the range of purposes and authorities for community expansion, it is impossible to predict the needs of communities over the life of the plan. Accordingly, community expansion needs will continue to be addressed on a case-by-case basis using criteria established in appropriate laws, regulations and BLM manuals. These needs will also be addressed in accordance with resource management guidelines and land-use objectives set out in this RMP.

Access was also identified as an issue in the RMP-EIS, but was later dropped. The planning team initially considered areas where legal access to or across federal lands needed to be guaranteed or acquired. After analyzing access needs in the district, however, the team found no areas on public lands in the district where access is a problem.

Management guidelines for other non-planning issues such as minerals and energy, wild horses and burros and fire management are described in Chapter 2 of the RMP-EIS under *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives*. Resources not raised as issues but likely to be affected by plan decisions are discussed in Chapter 3 (*Affected Environment*) to help the reviewer understand the planning area and the discussion of impacts in Chapter 4.

PLANNING CRITERIA

The interdisciplinary team used the interests and concerns expressed during the public scoping process to develop criteria that tailor the alternatives (Chapter 2) to the planning issues. These criteria are also based on applicable law, federal regulations and BLM policy. General criteria for developing and analyzing alternatives are listed below. Criteria which relate to specific planning issues appear in *Appendix A-2*. Yuma District's proposed planning criteria were distributed for public comment in August 1983.

Criteria For Developing Alternatives

The alternatives for individual planning issues may include:

Differing management actions and intensities;

Differing land areas, locations or boundaries;

Differing levels of public investment;

Application of special conditions or stipulations; and

Allowable resource uses.

The alternatives should:

Provide a multiple-use and sustained-yield management framework for the full variety of resources in the Yuma District. Single uses or less than full multiple use of resources may be applied on some lands due to the nature and value of the resources or uses involved;

Be as consistent as possible with the officially adopted resource management plans, programs or policies of other federal, state or local government agencies, and Indian tribes; and

Be technically feasible, and cost-efficient.

Criteria for Estimating the Effects of Alternatives

The interdisciplinary team should:

Evaluate the economic and social impacts of alternatives;

Analyze the impacts on natural, cultural, Native American and mineral and energy values;

Assess the impacts on the uses and values of adjacent non-federal lands;

Evaluate cumulative impacts on resources and values; and

Estimate probable ranges of impacts where effects cannot be precisely determined.

Criteria for Selecting a Preferred Alternative

The preferred alternative should:

Be cost-effective;

Resolve planning issues while achieving management objectives;

Reflect public needs and opinions;

Comply with federal and state laws; and

Be as consistent as possible with plans of other agencies.

Alternatives Developed

The interdisciplinary team developed six alternatives after analyzing public comments, identifying resource conflicts and applying the planning criteria.

1) *Preferred Alternative* — proposed RMP
2) *Alternative A* — no action; continuation of present management
3) *Alternative B* — resource production
4) *Alternative C* — balance resource use; production
5) *Alternative D* — balance resource use; protection
6) *Alternative E* — resource protection

These land-use alternatives provide a full range of management options for resolving the planning issues. Chapter 2 describes the actions proposed in each alternative; Table S-1 summarizes the alternatives.

CHAPTER 2

ALTERNATIVES INCLUDING THE PROPOSED RMP

Introduction

Six land-use plan alternatives, including the proposed RMP, are described in detail in this chapter. Each alternative represents a complete and reasonable plan to guide future management of public lands and resources. One alternative represents "no action" or a continuation of existing management. The other five alternatives were developed to provide a wide range of options from emphasis on resource production to emphasis on resource protection.

The range of alternatives was selected on the basis of scoping, planning criteria and information in the *Management Situation Analysis* (MSA — see *Appendix A*). Scoping revealed varied public attitudes toward management, use and development of resources in the district. For example, some groups favored the protection of as much wildlife habitat and other natural values as possible, while others wanted an intermediate acreage — still others opposed any management decisions that would constrain public land uses in any manner. The range of alternatives reflects each of these attitudes. Planning criteria identified the legal, regulatory and policy constraints that would influence alternatives for each of the issues. Finally, the MSA provided background information on the land and resource capabilities and on other environmental factors in the district. These data were used to identify various combinations of public land uses and resource management practices that would resolve the planning issues.

The *Preferred Alternative* is described first, followed by alternatives A through E in that order. Each issue is discussed separately under each alternative. In addition, land acquisitions are discussed both under the *Land Ownership Adjustment* issue and the other issues involving acquisitions — wildlife habitat, grazing, and special management areas. These discussions are repetitive; refer to the lands issue for the total acreage of lands proposed for acquisition under each alternative.

Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives

The following section describes management guidance that would be followed no matter which alternative is selected. These guidelines generally represent standard operating procedures established by law, regulations and BLM's national or state policy. They are presented here to avoid repetition under each alternative.

MFP DECISIONS

Resource management guidelines established in the RMP will replace or supersede those contained in Yuma District's three Management Framework Plans (MFPs) approved in 1975. However, some decisions set out in the MFPs remain unchanged and will continue to guide management in the district. These MFP decisions will be carried forward as part of the RMP and are summarized below.

Wildlife Habitat Management

BLM will discourage the introduction of "exotic" species on public lands and maintain existing waters used by wildlife on public lands.

Lands Programs

BLM will:

- phase out existing cabinsite and residential permits and remove improvements associated with such permits;
- prohibit assignment or transfer of cabinsite permits;
- establish community gravel pits where appropriate (all sales would be made from these pits);
- remove unauthorized dumpsites in the District; and
- cooperate with appropriate counties to determine suitable sites for county sanitary landfills or dump stations in order to accommodate the needs of county residents.

Recreation

BLM will establish a BLM Ranger Force of visitor management specialists to:

- provide for basic visitor safety and resource protection,
- provide for the enhancement of the visitors' recreation experience; and
- provide visitor management for those facilities necessary to control intensive public use areas.

BLM will also provide for the general safety of the recreationist and for the protection of the resources by:

- providing basic sanitation facilities through private and public funding;
- coordinating and cooperating with county, state, and local entities and with the Lower Colorado River Emergency Medical and Police Services Association to provide emergency services for visitors using public lands in the district.

Minerals

BLM will coordinate with USBR to locate and preserve adequate permanent material sites for levee and revetment work along the Colorado River.

Water Rights

Acquire legally perfected rights to use water from the Lower Colorado River in support of BLM programs, including the water needs of BLM recreation sites, commercial and concession facilities, and state and local government park leases.

Wild Horses and Burros

Allow no water developments for horses and burros that would expand their present herd areas. Mitigate loss of access to water along the Colorado River due to changing land use by either providing fenced access routes or developing new sources of water.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION WITHDRAWN LANDS

The Bureau of Land Management has administrative responsibility on approximately 282,000 acres of land along the Colorado River that are currently withdrawn from public domain or have been acquired for project purposes of the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation (BR). BLM's management of BR withdrawn and acquired lands is the subject of an interagency agreement (BR/BLM Interagency Agreement of 23 March 1983) and Department-wide guidelines (DI Manual 613). BLM would manage surface uses of BR lands in accordance with the agreement and guidelines. In addition, the Bureau of Reclamation is obligated to comply with requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, the Endangered Species Act, and other applicable Executive Orders, laws and regulations in planning and implementing site-specific actions on BRP withdrawn lands.

Refer to *Floodplains Protection Program* in this Chapter for a description of floodplain management practices BLM would follow on BR withdrawn lands within the floodplains.

WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES PROGRAM

General

Wildlife habitat use of riparian lands would be managed in a manner consistent with **BLM Manual 6740 (Wetland-Riparian Area Protection and Management)**, federal floodplain management regulations, Bureau of Reclamation needs, **and floodway clearance obligations of the International Boundary and Water Commission.**

Potential impacts on fish and wildlife habitat would continue to be evaluated and mitigated whenever a project or action is proposed. Such evaluations would consider the significance of the proposed project and the sensitivity of fish and wildlife habitat in the affected area.

Wildlife habitat improvement projects would be implemented where necessary to stabilize or improve unsatisfactory or declining wildlife habitat condition. These projects would be identified through cooperative management plans (under the *Sikes Act*; see *Glossary*) or coordinated resource management activity plans.

All priority wildlife habitat lands would be retained in federal ownership (see *Wildlife Habitat* alternatives and *Glossary* for explanation of priority use areas).

Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species Habitat

Federal law provides for the conservation of federally-listed threatened and endangered wildlife species and their habitat, **as well as species proposed for listing**. No activities or projects would be permitted on BLM-administered lands that would jeopardize the continued existence of such species.

If the BLM environmental assessment process determines that a proposed project may affect a federally-listed species, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would be initiated in accordance with Section 7 of the *Endangered Species Act of 1973*, as amended. Management activities in habitat for threatened, endangered or sensitive species would be designed, whenever possible, to benefit these species through habitat improvement.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department and California Department of Fish and Game will be consulted before implementing projects that may affect habitat for state-listed threatened and endangered species.

To date, no critical habitat for any T&E wildlife species has been designated in the Yuma District by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

THREATENED & ENDANGERED PLANTS

Federal law provides for the conservation of federally-listed threatened and endangered plant species and **the ecosystems upon which they depend. No activities or projects that would jeopardize the continued existence of such species would be permitted on BLM-administered lands.**

Major projects that may affect T&E plants are reviewed by BLM before approval in consultation and coordination with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), the Arizona Agricultural and Horticultural Commission and the California Department of Fish and Game. **Consultation with the FWS is required by the Endangered Species Act of 1973** (see *T&E Species Habitat* above for more information).

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Prior to approving any land use activity which might affect cultural resources, a review for compliance with the *National Historic Preservation Act* (1966) and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 800) would be completed. After reviewing existing cultural resource information, a site-specific inventory would be conducted as appropriate. Cultural resources affected by the proposed land use would be evaluated according to the National Register eligibility criteria and assigned to appropriate BLM use categories (see *Appendix J*). Appropriate mitigation measures, such as avoidance, project restrictions or redesign, and/or data recovery would be developed in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer.

Emergency protection of cultural resources threatened with deterioration or destruction would continue to be applied through appropriate physical or administrative protection measures. Enforcement of the *Antiquities Act of 1906* and the *Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979*, which prevent the unauthorized removal or alteration of cultural resources, would continue.

RANGE PROGRAM

Allotment Categorization

All grazing allotments in the district have been assigned to one of three management categories on the basis of present resource conditions and management needs, range potential, conflicts with other values, and resource and economic potential for improvement. *Appendix G–4* summarizes allotment categorization for Yuma District. Categorization establishes priorities for distributing management funds and personnel in order to achieve cost-effective improvement of rangeland conditions and production. The three categories are: "M" Maintain, "I" Improve and "C" Custodial. The "M" category allotments would be managed to maintain satisfactory conditions; "I" allotments would be managed to improve unsatisfactory conditions; and "C" would receive custodial management to prevent resource deterioration. Efforts would be concentrated in those allotments where grazing management actions are most needed to improve the basic resource or to resolve serious resource-use conflicts. BLM would recategorize allotments as management needs or objectives shift or potential for improvement changes.

Grazing Administration

BLM would offer each livestock operator a 10-year grazing permit which lists the numbers and kinds of livestock allowed and period of use for each allotment. To change grazing use from that authorized by the grazing permit, the operator would be required to submit a written request to BLM before the grazing period begins. BLM would make its decision on the basis of range monitoring data and the applicable management objectives and needs of other resources.

Operators of "I" allotments would be billed for actual grazing use after that use has taken place. Operators of "M" and "C" allotments would be billed before actual grazing takes place.A base herd utilizing 3,998 AUMs is presently allowed to graze on perennial-ephemeral allotments on a yearlong basis. Additional livestock may be grazed on these allotments through a temporary nonrenewable permit when ephemeral forage is known to exist. Ephemeral forage must be sufficient to prevent damage to the perennial vegetation before additional animals are placed on the P-E allotments.

Grazing permits on the 10 ephemeral allotments would only be approved when grazing use is desired and an ephemeral forage crop exists.

Range Improvements

Typical range improvements and the general procedures to be followed in implementing them are described in *Appendix G–6*. Rangeland developments would continue to be implemented through cooperative agreements with allotment operators and range improvement permits. Funds appropriated for rangeland developments would be allocated first to allotments in the "I" category. Rangeland developments for allotments in the "M" and

"C" categories would have second and third priorities, respectively, and would only be constructed by BLM when the developments meet multiple-use objectives on a case-by-case basis.

Rangeland Monitoring

Needed adjustments in grazing management would be determined on the basis of monitoring data. When data indicate that AMP objectives are not being met, grazing systems or management practices such as season of use would be modified to reach those objectives. In addition, adjustments in livestock numbers would only be authorized when monitoring over a period of three to five years shows a sustained yield of forage production and when all new rangeland developments necessary to implement the AMP are constructed. All changes in management resulting from monitoring must be consistent with resource uses established in the RMP. Monitoring would be most intensive in the improve (I) allotments and least intensive in the custodial (C) allotments.

The Lower Gila Monitoring Plan (BLM's Phoenix District) would provide overall guidance for monitoring in Yuma District. In addition, detailed monitoring plans would be developed for each allotment to assess the effectiveness of grazing treatments and new rangeland developments, and to determine whether AMP objectives are being met. At a minimum, monitoring for P-E allotments would study actual yearly livestock use, forage utilization, trend in rangeland condition and precipitation. However, on ephemeral allotments, photo points (photographs taken biannually at the same location) would be used to monitor trend in rangeland condition. The monitoring plans would be developed in an AMP or in allotment files if an AMP is not prepared. BLM would coordinate monitoring plans with affected and interested parties such as the allotment operators, universities, and federal and state agencies.

Grazing Systems

Grazing systems would be implemented under all but the no-grazing alternative (*Alternative E*). The type of system to be implemented would be determined: a) in cooperation with the livestock operator, and b) based on consideration of allotment-specific management objectives as defined in the RMP and AMPs, resource characteristics and potential, operator needs, and implementation costs. Typical grazing systems that would be considered are described in *Appendix G-7*.

LAND AND MINERALS OWNERSHIP ADJUSTMENT PROGRAM

Public lands within the Yuma District would be retained in federal ownership unless specifically identified for disposal in the RMP or an amendment to the RMP, **or they are needed to accommodate either a land exchange program with the state or special legislation that calls for the disposition of public lands.**

Public lands that are within priority wildlife habitat and special management areas, under wilderness review, designated as wilderness, or otherwise classified or withdrawn would be retained in federal ownership.

Disposals

Lands identified for transfer out of federal ownership must meet the criteria for public land sales or exchanges set out in the *Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976* (FLPMA). These criteria are summarized in *Appendix A* under criteria for resolving the land ownership adjustment issue. BLM-administered Bureau of Reclamation (BR) withdrawn lands would be available for disposal only if the BR withdrawal from public domain is revoked (see section on withdrawal review below).

The existence of mining claims, significant cultural resources, **riparian habitat** or threatened and endangered species may preclude actual transfer of lands identified in the RMP for disposal. The available data are not sufficient for making accurate determinations of the absence or existence of these factors. Accordingly, individual tract clearances will be carried out prior to transferring lands out of federal ownership.

Exchange would be the preferred method of disposal under all alternatives in order to assure an optimum final land ownership pattern and provide better overall land management.

Acquisitions.

Lands other than those specifically identified in this RMP-EIS may be acquired by BLM through exchange. Lands to be acquired must either:

1) **facilitate access to public lands and resources**
2) **maintain or enhance public uses and values**
3) **facilitate implementation of this RMP or**
4) **provide for a more manageable land ownership pattern.**

Mineral Estate

As part of the land ownership adjustment program in the district, BLM would consolidate surface and subsurface (minerals) estates under one ownership whenever possible in order to eliminate potential problems associated with split estate and thereby improve manageability of the federal, state or privately-owned lands involved. Split-estate consolidation would be achieved by exchanges with the states or private owners and in accordance with guidelines set out in Section 206 of FLPMA. Any lands acquired by BLM would include both the surface and mineral estate whenever possible.

Agricultural Leases and Permits

In all alternatives except *E*, BLM would continue to authorize agricultural use on certain public lands along the Colorado River (see alternatives for description of areas and acres involved). Special agricultural permits and leases that currently authorize this use would be replaced with new leases issued under the authority of FLPMA and procedures set out in federal regulations in 43 CFR 2920. These 2920 leases would be issued following expiration of the present lease or contract. Under the 2920 regulations, lease fees equal to fair market value would be required.

The transfer or reassignment of agricultural leases would be subject to prior review and approval by BLM.

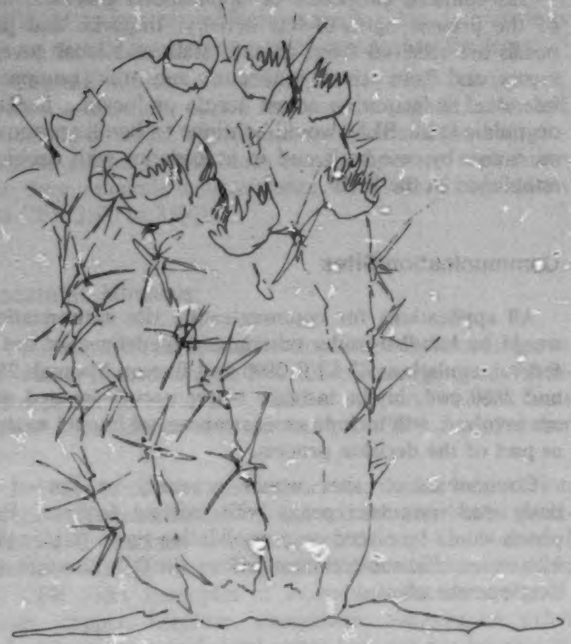
Community Expansion

All public land is subject to application for community expansion needs under a wide variety of public land laws. Community expansion needs would continue to be handled on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the appropriate authority.

Private and public entities use several authorities to procure federal lands for community expansion needs such as airports, parks, hospitals, community centers and sanitary landfills. With the exception of Free-Use Permits for Mineral Materials, these authorities generally require public involvement and/or classification, a land report and an environmental assessment (EA) prior to sale or issuance of permits, leases or patents. In addition, community expansion needs would be addressed in accordance with resource management guidelines and land-use objectives set out in the RMP.

GENERAL LANDS PROGRAM

The district typically processes a variety of lands cases. These actions include issuing rights-of-way, permits, leases, easements and resolving unauthorized occupancy. Lands cases would continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with decisions established in the RMP. In addition to the land ownership programs already discussed, the following are ongoing programs which would continue to be carried out under standard operating procedures.



Withdrawal Review

A review of other agency withdrawals will be completed by 1991 to determine if these withdrawals should be continued, modified or revoked. Upon revocation, the withdrawn land would revert to BLM management as public land. Current BLM policy minimizes the acreage of public land withdrawn and where applicable, replaces existing withdrawals with rights-of-way, leases, permits or cooperative agreements.

Section 302, FLPMA - Leases, Easements, and Permits

Proposals or applications for leases, easements and permits would continue to be handled on a case-by-case basis under criteria and guidelines given in federal regulations (43 CFR 2920), Bureau Manual 2920, and the RMP.

Trespass Abatement

Existing unauthorized uses of public land would be resolved either through termination, authorization by lease or permit, or litigation. New cases of unauthorized use generally would be terminated immediately.

Rights-of-Way

User-initiated proposals or applications generate most of the present rights-of-way activity. Inquiries and proposals are received from federal, state and local governments, and from private individuals and utility companies interested in acquiring access across or locating facilities on public land. BLM would continue to handle proposals on a case-by-case basis and in accordance with decisions established in the RMP.

Communication Sites

All applications for communication site authorizations would be handled under criteria and guidelines set out in federal regulations 43 CFR 2800 and Bureau Manuals 2800 and 2860 and, in the instance where non-designated sites are involved, will include an environmental impact analysis as part of the decision process.

Communication sites would generally be limited to designated mountain peaks with existing facilities. Emphasis would be placed on consolidating single facility sites into more efficient communications facilities through site development plans.

RECREATION PROGRAM

General

The specific strategies and actions for managing recreation use areas on federal lands would be established through development or revision of: a) recreation activity plans, and b) management and development plans for sites operated by private concessionaires or other public agencies. These plans would include provisions for the correction of any resource degradation or visitor use management problems that occur at these sites.

Off-Road Vehicle Use

The eventual decisions made by Congress on wilderness could cause an adjustment to ORV designations in the district. Once Congress designates a wilderness study area (WSA) as wilderness, the area would become closed to ORV use, except for emergency access and access relating to certain valid existing uses as described in the Bureau's Wilderness Management Policy. In the interim, the ORV designations described in the RMP (see Table 2-7 and Map 2) would continue to apply to all 22 WSAs in the district. These ORV designations would also apply on all WSAs that are not designated by Congress as wilderness. WSAs are shown on Map 7.

Visual Resources

Visual resources would continue to be evaluated as a part of activity and project planning. Such evaluation would consider the significance of the proposed project and the visual sensitivity of the affected area. Changes in project design or location may be required to avoid visual impacts.

WILDERNESS PROGRAM

The twenty-two wilderness study areas in the district will continue to be managed in compliance with the Interim Management Policy (IMP) until they are reviewed and acted upon by Congress. BLM is scheduled to complete its wilderness review by 1991.

Public land added by Congress to the National Wilderness Preservation System would be managed in compliance with BLM's Wilderness Management Policy (USDI, BLM 1981). Site-specific wilderness management plans would be developed for these designated areas.

Areas reviewed by Congress but not added to the National Wilderness Preservation System would be managed in accordance with other applicable guidance provided by this RMP.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM

An environmental analysis would be completed before proposed projects, actions or activity plans involving public lands are implemented, except when the proposed action is covered by this plan or a categorical exclusion (see *Glossary*) or has been fully analyzed in this RMP-EIS. Proposed actions will be either approved, modified, relocated or abandoned based on the results of these environmental analyses.

Impacts from actions that are not specifically projected or proposed in this RMP, or from activity plans that are prepared subsequent to this RMP would be analyzed through an EA or EIS in accordance with NEPA.

FLOODPLAINS PROTECTION PROGRAM

Executive Order 11988 - Floodplain Management

Issued in 1977, this Order requires BLM to avoid development or occupancy on the 100-year floodplain wherever possible. If development must be located in the

100-year floodplain, potential harm to lives and property as well as to natural and beneficial floodplain values must be minimized.

The Order also requires that BLM's standards and requirements for development in floodplains be consistent with the National Floodplain Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements administered by Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Moreover, accepted floodproofing measures and other flood protection measures must be applied to all new construction or rehabilitation of structures and facilities in the floodplain.

Floodplain Coordination

E.O. 11988 applies equally to all federal land-managing agencies. BLM-Bureau of Reclamation coordination on floodplain management in Yuma District is described in: a) Departmental Manual 613 with respect to the lands bordering on the Lower Colorado River, and b) in the Bureau of Reclamation/Bureau of Land Management Interagency Agreement of 25 March 1983. **BLM would also coordinate floodplain management so as not to conflict with projects and obligations of the International Boundary and Water Commission.** Consultation and coordination with state, federal and locoal agencies would be required on all significant land actions which affect occupancy of the floodplain.

Floodplain Delineation

BLM will use the most accurate information available for evaluating flood hazard. Many floodplain mapping and flooding hazard studies have been completed on the Yuma District. These studies have been carried out by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), the Army Corps of Engineers (COE), the Bureau of Reclamation (BR) and private contracts. As the floodplain changes through natural processes or more accurate information becomes available, BLM will adopt these changes, as appropriate. Most of the existing floodplain mapping is available at the Yuma District Office.

ENERGY & MINERALS PROGRAM

General

All public land is open to mineral entry and development under the *General Mining Law of 1872* unless specifically withdrawn from such use. On lands purchased by the federal government, mineral resources would be subject to leasing in accordance with the *Reorganization Act of 1946* and would be managed by BLM.

Leasable Minerals

As a general rule, all public lands are subject to application for oil and gas leasing. Site-specific decisions regarding lease issuance and the attachment of appropriate stipulations would continue to be based on regulatory standards in 43 CFR 3100 to 3540. Oil and gas leases would be issued with only standard stipulations attached, unless seasonal wildlife habitat or other sensitive resources identified in the RMP justify additional protection. In highly sensitive areas, where special stipulations are not sufficient to protect surface resource values, stipulations for no surface occupancy may be attached to the lease.

Minerals subject to leasing are: coal, phosphate, sodium, potassium, oil, oil shale, native asphalt, solid and semi-solid bitumen, bituminous rock, natural gas and geothermal steam. Public lands remain open to exploration for these minerals in accordance with federal regulations (43 CFR 3100 to 3500).

Locatable Minerals

Mineral exploration and development would continue to be managed according to the surface management regulations contained in 43 CFR 3800 — subpart 3802 for lands under wilderness review and subpart 3809 for all other lands.

In order to prevent unnecessary and undue degradation of the environment from mining activity, regulatory standards would continue to be enforced through the Notice of Intent or Mining Plan of Operation procedure described in 43 CFR 3800. Examples of locatable minerals are gold, silver, copper, uranium, manganese, tungsten or other valuable minerals in federal estate that are not leasable or salable.

Salable Minerals

The district would attempt to meet demands for common variety mineral materials, including sand, gravel and clay, through sales or free-use permits on a case-by-case basis. Stipulations to protect important surface values may be attached on the basis of an interdisciplinary review of each proposal and regulatory standards set forth in 43 CFR 3600.

Minerals Management in Wilderness Areas.

Minerals exploration and development in wilderness study areas would be managed according to BLM's Interim Management Policy (IMP) and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review, as amended (USDI, BLM 1979a). In short, lands under wilderness review would continue to be subject to appropriation under the mining laws. However, mining activity in WSAs would be regulated so

that it does not impair wilderness suitability, except where grandfathered mining operations are involved. A mining plan of operation would be required for all except grandfathered mining operations in wilderness study areas. In accordance with federal regulations 43 CFR 3802, these plans must ensure that no unnecessary or undue degradation of the wilderness resource would occur.

In designated wilderness areas, minerals exploration and development would be managed according to guidelines contained in BLM's Wilderness Management Policy (USDI, BLM 1981). In short, subject to valid existing rights, public lands included in designated wilderness areas are withdrawn from all forms of appropriation under the mining laws. A plan of operations meeting the criteria of 43 CFR 3809 must be submitted for all valid existing mining operations in wilderness areas. The provisions in the plan would protect the rights of the operators while minimizing the impacts on the wilderness resource. No unnecessary or undue degradation of the wilderness resource would be allowed.

FIRE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

Fires on or threatening public lands would be suppressed in accordance with BLM fire policy, initial attack agreements with other government agencies and approved modified fire suppression plans. Prescribed burning would continue to be used in support of resource management objectives where warranted.

WILD HORSE AND BURRO PROGRAM

Herd management area plans have been prepared for wild horse and burro management in the district in accordance with federal regulation 43 CFR 4730.6 under the authority of the *Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act of 1971*. The plans are designed to protect, manage, and control wild free-roaming horses and burros in a particular area on a sustained-yield basis without resource degradation. Wild horses and burros would continue to be managed in accordance with the herd plans. Excess animals would be removed as necessary to protect the forage resource.

SOIL, WATER, AND AIR PROGRAM

Potential impacts upon soil, water, and air quality would continue to be evaluated and mitigated on a case-by-case basis as part of project-level planning. These evaluations will consider the significance of the proposed project and the sensitivity of soil, water and air resources in the affected area.

Soils would be managed to maintain biological productivity and to minimize erosion.

Water quality would continue to be maintained or improved in accordance with state and federal standards. BLM would consult with the appropriate state agencies on proposed projects that may significantly affect water quality. Management actions on public land within municipal watersheds would be designed to protect water quality and quantity.

Monitoring the Resource Management Plan

Implementation of the Yuma District RMP will be monitored and evaluated during the 10–20 year life of the plan to ensure that resource management decisions and actions are achieving their intended purposes. BLM will use the results of monitoring to judge the continued utility of the plan and whether plan maintenance, amendment or revision is necessary. An RMP amendment or revision will usually be required when monitoring indicates that:

1) **significant unexpected adverse impacts are occurring as a result of plan decisions**
2) **mitigating measures established in this RMP-EIS are not working as predicted or**
3) **there are significant changes in the pattern, intensity or types of resource use and demands.**

The general purposes of monitoring and evaluation will be:

1) **to assess the progress of plan implementation**
2) **to determine if management actions taken to implement RMP decisions are fulfilling the purpose for which the planning decisions were made, or if there is a need for modification or termination of an RMP action or decision**
3) **to determine whether the impacts projected in the EIS are correct**
4) **to discover any unanticipated, unacceptable or unpredictable impacts**
5) **to determine whether mitigation measures developed in this EIS are working as prescribed**
6) **to evaluate the plan for consistency with current BLM policy and the plans, programs and policies of state and local governmental agencies, other federal agencies and Indian tribes**
7) **to determine if new data have an effect on the plan**
8) **to determine long-term resource use and condition trends and develop data for future planning and decision-making, and**
9) **to provide a continuing comparison of plan benefits versus costs, including social, economic and environmental benefits and costs.**

Monitoring and evaluation standards, intervals and methods will vary depending upon the sensitivity of the resources involved and the availability of funding. Both formal and informal monitoring reviews will be carried out

over the life of the plan. Formal monitoring reviews addressing each of the nine general purposes listed above will be completed at least every five years. Informal monitoring will take place routinely as a matter of standard management activity and as planning decisions are implemented.

A specific monitoring plan will be prepared for the planning issue decisions in the RMP following its approval. Specific monitoring plans for other programs will be developed if the need arises. Monitoring requirements will also be addressed in all activity plans prepared subsequent to this RMP.

Monitoring activities and needs will be programmed into budget development for the various resource management programs annually. Where possible, monitoring activities for two or more programs will be planned and carried out jointly in order to achieve maximum cost efficiency.

Alternatives Considered In Detail

Six alternatives are considered in detail in this chapter. Five of them — *Alternatives A* through *E* — were developed to explore a full range of issue resolution scenarios as required by CEQ and BLM planning regulations (see *Glossary* for CEQ). The sixth alternative — BLM's *Preferred Alternative* — incorporates portions of and, in some cases, modifies the other five alternatives. A summary of the alternatives appears in Table S-1; their impacts are summarized in Table 2-11 at the end of this chapter.

The *Preferred Alternative* is discussed first followed by the no action (A), production (B), balanced (C, D) and protection (E) alternatives in that order. No priority or preference is implied by the order of the latter five alternatives. For ease in cross-referencing, the environmental impacts discussed in Chapter 4 are presented by alternative in the same order as they appear in this chapter. The reader should note that land acquisition alternatives are discussed both under the headings for *Land Ownership Adjustment* and several other specific issues. The total acquisitions discussed under *Land Ownership Adjustment* include acreages from the other issues.

Preferred Alternative

The *Preferred Alternative* balances competing demands by providing for the development of needed resources while protecting important and sensitive environmental values. The goal of this alternative is to recommend management that will meet statutory and policy requirements while resolving the planning issues in a balanced, cost-effective manner. In addition to the management actions described for each issue below, refer to *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* for other actions that would be followed under the *Preferred Alternative*.

ISSUE 1: Wildlife Habitat

Wildlife habitat would be a priority consideration on approximately **247,740** acres under this alternative (see Map 2). These areas with important wildlife values would be referred to as priority wildlife habitat. Allowable uses on priority wildlife habitat areas would include compatible activities or those uses whose impacts could be mitigated to preserve or enhance wildlife values. Improvements would be restricted to those that are compatible with wildlife habitat or cultural resources and those required by mining. No sand and gravel permits would be authorized, but surface occupancy for oil and gas leases would be allowed on all areas except on bighorn sheep lambing grounds (11,100 acres) and lands immediately adjacent to springs in priority wildlife habitat (approximatel 40 surrounding acres). Utility rights-of-way within priority wildlife habitat areas would be confined to designated corridors. Roads accessing utilities would be closed to public entry. ORV use would be limited to existing roads and trails. All public lands within priority wildlife habitat would be retained in federal ownership unless patented under the mining laws. **These management guidelines would apply both to the riparian and bighorn sheep use areas described below.**

Riparian Areas

All of the remaining riparian areas administered by the BLM along the Colorado, Bill Williams and Gila Rivers would be managed as priority wildlife areas (approximately **23,100** acres).

Riparian areas specifically identified for protection in the district's Management Framework Plans (MFPs) and the Habitat Management Plans (HMPs) would be included under this protection. These areas and their approximate acreages are:

1) 1,500 acres along the Gila River
2) **1,780** acres along the Colorado River south of Yuma
3) 13,500 acres along the Colorado River from Ferguson and Martinez Lakes to Laguna Dam
4) 1,340 acres at A-7, A-10, and Palo Verde Oxbow
5) 1,400 acres along Lake Havasu shoreline
6) 125 acres at Beale's Slough
7) 3,275 acres of mesquite, willow, and cottonwood in the Needles and Bullhead City area
8) **160 acres along the Bill Williams River**

These **eight** areas would remain priority wildlife habitat. Because of their small size, the areas are not all shown on a map in this RMP.

Management of riparian areas around springs has not been a problem in the past; however, these areas would also be managed as priority habitat in order to maintain their high value for wildlife.

Bighorn Sheep Use Areas

Bighorn sheep yearlong use areas (216,960 acres) and one migration corridor (7,680 acres) in the following mountain ranges would be managed as priority wildlife habitat areas:

1) Bill Williams and Buckskin Mountains	93,440 acres
2) Mohave Mountains	33,280 acres
3) Aubrey Hills	13,440 acres
4) Whipple Mountains	5,760 acres
5) Black Mountains	17,280 acres
6) Trigo and Dome Rock Mountains	53,760 acres
7) Castle Dome migration route	7,680 acres

The Parker-Blaisdell utility corridor bisects the Castle Dome migration route. Future transmission lines located in this corridor would be designed to minimize impacts to sheep movements. The Parker-Liberty corridor would narrow to 330 feet where it passes adjacent lambing grounds in the Buckskin Mountains (see *Rights-of-Way* under this alternative).

Roads traversing bighorn sheep lambing grounds (11,100 acres) would be closed during the lambing season from January 1 to June 30 (see Map 2). **Exceptions to this seasonal closure may be made through applicable federal regulations for rights-of-way, mining and off-road vehicle uses.**

Land Acquisition

BLM would attempt to acquire through exchange 27,540 acres of state and private lands adjacent to or encompassed by priority wildlife areas (see Table 2-4, *Land Ownership Adjustments*).

ISSUE 2: Special Management Areas

Cultural and natural values would be a priority consideration on the areas identified under this alternative (see Table 2-1 and Map 7). Allowable uses on special management areas for cultural and natural resources would include compatible activities or those uses whose impacts could be mitigated to preserve or enhance the recognized values.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources on 33 sites and areas totaling approximately 6,800 acres would be managed under the "conservation for future use" category, i.e., preserved in place. *Appendix J* describes the various use categories and their criteria. Additional sites would be added to the list of special management areas for cultural resources as they become identified. Cultural resource areas are not identified in this RMP-EIS in order to protect the resources from disturbance or from unauthorized collecting. Mandatory disclosure of the locations of the cultural resource sites is specifically excluded from the *Freedom of Information Act*.

Allowable uses on the 33 cultural resource sites and areas would include activities that are compatible with the objective of preserving these resources in place for future use. Improvements would be restricted to those that are compatible with the cultural resources or those required for mining. Approximately 6,000 acres (88%) of these lands are under Bureau of Reclamation withdrawal and therefore segregated from mineral entry and development. Mining activity on the remaining sites and areas would be managed so as to avoid disruption or, where this is not possible, minimize damage to cultural values using regulatory standards contained in 43 CFR 3800. Surface occupancy for oil and gas leases, sand and gravel permits, and utility rights-of-way would not be authorized on these lands. ORV use would be restricted to existing roads and trails.

Unique Natural Areas and Features

Under this alternative, two areas (31,360 acres) would be designated special management areas — Crossman Peak as a Natural Scenic Area (26,080 acres) and the Big Marias (5,280 acres) as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) (see Chapter 3, *Unique Natural Areas* for a description of these areas).

Improvements would be restricted to those compatible with the natural or cultural resources for which the area is recognized and, on Crossman Peak, to those permitted by the mining laws. The Big Marias ACEC would be withdrawn from entry for exploration and development of locatable and leasable minerals in order to protect cultural resources in this area. Surface occupancy for oil and gas leases would be authorized on Crossman Peak. No additional sand and gravel permits or utility rights-of-way would be authorized on either area. ORV use would be limited to existing roads and trails on Crossman Peak and to designated roads and trails on the Big Marias. **BLM would coordinate with the Bureau of Reclamation to provide an access road across the Big Marias ACEC in order that BR can develop and haul material from its quarry sites located west of the ACEC.**

Six other areas totaling 155,705 acres would not be formally designated, but would be managed under special prescriptions to protect their natural values. These areas are the Whipple Mountains (15,170 acres), Aubrey Hills (20,000 acres), Gibraltar Mountains (25,260 acres), Cactus Plain (76,060 acres; **a portion of this area has been deleted to accommodate Disposal Area 11 and the Parker-Blaisdell corridor proposed in this alternative), Milpitas Wash** (4,760 acres) and Muggins Mountains (14,455

TABLE 2-1: PROPOSED SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Area Name and ID Number	Type of Designation	Natural Values	Proposed Designations by Alternative						
			Acreage	Preferred	A	B	C	D	E
Crossman Peak NA-1	Natural Scenic Area	Scenery, plant and wildlife habitat	26,000	Yes	No	No*	No*	Yes	Yes
Aubrey Hills NA-2	Scenic Corridor	Scenery, wildlife habitat	20,000	No*	No*	No	No	No	Yes
Whipple Mountains NA-3	Area of Critical Environmental Concern	Scenery, cultural resources, wildlife habitat	15,170	No*	No*	No	No*	Yes	Yes
The Mesa NA-4	Outstanding Natural Area	Scenery, wildlife habitat	10,400	No	Yes	No	No*	Yes	Yes
Gibraltar Mountain NA-5	Outstanding Natural Area	Scenery, primitive nature, wildlife habitat	25,260	No*	No	No	No*	Yes	Yes
Sanded Canyon NA-6	Outstanding Natural Area	Scenery, geology	7,640	No	No	No	No*	Yes	Yes
Planet Peak NA-7	Outstanding Natural Area	Primitive nature, wildlife habitat	17,260	No	No*	No	No	No	Yes
Cactus Plain NA-8	Outstanding Natural Area	Unique landforms and plant communities, wildlife habitat	84,095 (76,060)	No* (73,440)	Yes (76,060)	No*	No*	Yes	Yes
Black Peak Sand Dunes NA-8A	Natural Resources Experiment and Research Area	Unique landforms and plant communities, wildlife habitat	(5,760)	**	Yes	**	**	**	**
Bouse Sand Dunes NA-8B	Natural Resources Experiment and Research Area	Unique landforms and plant communities, wildlife habitat	(4,800)	**	Yes	**	**	**	**
La Posa Plain NA-9	Natural Resources Experiment and Research Area	Unique landforms and plant communities, wildlife habitat	1,760	No	Yes	No	No*	Yes	Yes
Big Marias NA-10	Area of Critical Environmental Concern	Scenery, cultural resources	5,280	Yes	No	No	No*	Yes	Yes
Milpitas Wash NA-11	Outstanding Natural Area	Undisturbed desert vegetation, wildlife habitat, cultural resources	4,760	No*	No	No	No*	Yes	Yes
Laguna-Martinez NA-12	Area of Critical Environmental Concern	T and E species, scenery, riparian vegetation, marshland, wildlife habitat, cultural resources	13,500	No	No	No	No*	Yes	Yes
Muggins Mountains NA-13	Outstanding Natural Area	Scenery, primitive nature, cultural resources, wildlife habitat	14,455	No*	No	No*	No*	Yes	Yes
Mohawk Mountains NA-14	Natural Scenic Area	Scenery	4,520	No	No*	No	No	No	Yes
Yuma Desert NA-15	Natural Resources Experiment and Research Area	Unique landforms plant and wildlife habitat	6,440	No	Yes	No	No*	Yes	Yes
		TOTAL ACREAGE	236,660	107,065	159,350	116,595	214,880	214,880	236,660

* Although these areas would not be formally designated under this alternative, management prescriptions as described in Chapter 2 would be applied in order to protect natural values. Acreages for these areas are included in the Total Acreage for each alternative.
** Area included as part of Cactus Plain proposal under this alternative.

acres). Improvements on these six areas would be restricted to those compatible with the natural or cultural resources for which the area is recognized and to those permitted by the mining laws. Surface occupancy for oil and gas leases would be permitted on all of these areas but no sand and gravel permits or new utility rights-of-way would be authorized on these areas. ORV use would be limited to existing roads and trails. In the Cactus Plain, grazing use would be managed as described for this area under *Grazing Management* below.

ISSUE 3: Grazing Management

Under the *Preferred Alternative* the grazing management objectives would be to maintain the ecological rangeland condition for those areas currently in good to excellent condition and to improve those areas that are currently in fair or poor condition, **while remaining consistent with the management guidelines established in this RMP for priority wildlife habitat and special management areas**. The proposed grazing management would distribute livestock over the range to achieve more uniform forage utilization through implementation of allotment management plans (AMPs). Areas currently used heavily would receive lighter use while those areas presently receiving little or no use would be grazed more evenly, then rested. The Yuma District allotments and existing rangeland improvements are listed in *Appendices G-1, G-2* and *G-3* (see Map 8 for allotment boundaries).

Authorized Use

This alternative proposes no initial adjustments to the authorized annual stocking rate of 3,998 animal-unit months (AUMs) for the district's four perennial-ephemeral (P-E) allotments (see Table 2-2). These allotments involve four separate operators and 366,660 acres of federal land. In addition, seasonal increases in grazing use would be considered in order to utilize big galleta grass when it is green and palatable. Seasonal increases would be authorized on a temporary non-renewable basis after review of the allotment situation.

TABLE 2-2: PROPOSED AUMs FOR INDIVIDUAL P-E ALLOTMENTS
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

	Alternatives					
Allotment	Preferred	A	B	C	D	E
Nine-Mile	600	600	4,356	600	332	0
Ganado	1,846	1,846	1,846	1,846	1,226	0
Muse	1,036	1,036	1,036	1,036	622	0
Bishop	516	516	516	516	279	0
Total AUMs	3,998	3,998	7,754	3,998	2,459	0

In the Cactus Plain area proposed for special management, grazing use would be managed in a manner that would ensure maintenance of the area's existing plant species composition and stabilized sand dune ecosystem.

The remaining 10 allotments are designated as ephemeral and do not have grazing preferences (AUMs) attached to them. **Two of these allotments (Havasu Heights North and Havasu Heights South) would be reviewed to determine rangeland conditions and potential conflicts between grazing and a) priority wildlife species (see *Glossary*), b) other resource management objectives in the RMP and c) other land uses. Should the review conclude that the allotments are not suitable for grazing use or that the potential for significant conflicts is high, BLM would consider and implement appropriate measures and grazing use decisions to protect rangeland resources or remedy conflicts. The other eight allotments (approximately 780,075 acres)** would continue to be administered in accordance with the special ephemeral rule published in the *Federal Register* in December 1968 (see *Appendix G-8*).

Allotment Categorization and Management

The Nine-Mile and Ganado have been assigned to the "I" improve category and would be managed under AMPs prepared in consultation and cooperation with the allotment operator and other affected parties. These two allotments are mostly in good to excellent range condition with an average of approximately 33% of the acreage in poor to fair condition. Objectives would be to: a) open up a large part of the previously unused rangeland to grazing, b) allow the overused areas to be rested, and c) maintain good and excellent rangeland condition on an average of 67% of the acreage. Site-specific objectives would be outlined in AMPs.

The Muse allotment (P-E) is placed in the "M" or maintain category and present grazing management practices would not change. The Bishop allotment (P-E) — assigned to the "C" or custodial category — would continue to be managed custodially. The 10 ephemeral allotments are also placed in the "C" category.

Rangeland Developments

The *Preferred Alternative* provides for intensive management to improve the usefulness of the range for grazing, to improve livestock distribution, and to maintain desirable ecological rangeland conditions. Maintenance and improvement of the range would be accomplished through the construction of new rangeland developments. Table 2-3 summarizes improvements that are proposed under the *Preferred Alternative*.

In the Cactus Plain area proposed for special management, only those new rangeland developments that are essential to maintaining the area's unique plant community and to the stability of the dune ecosystem would be authorized.

TABLE 2-3: RANGELAND DEVELOPMENTS IN
THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Allotment	Development Type	Number
Ganado	Well	1
	Pipeline	2 miles
	Water Trough and Storage	1

Land Acquisitions

In the *Preferred Alternative* there would be no acquisition of private or state land for grazing purposes (see *Land Ownership Adjustment* in this alternative).

ISSUE 4: Land Ownership Adjustments

A summary of land ownership adjustment actions in all alternatives appears in Table 2-4.

TABLE 2-4: PROPOSED LAND OWNERSHIP ADJUSTMENTS
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

			Alternatives				
Sub-issue	Proposed Use	Preferred	A	B	C	D	E
1. Land Disposal (acres)		55,490	7,268	57,810	45,460	41,840	0
2. Land Acquisitions (acres)							
(a) East Cactus Plain	grazing	None	640	None	None	None	None
(b) East Cactus Plain	natural area	960	None	640	640	960	960
(c) Cactus Plain	grazing	None	3,520	3,680	4,160	6,720	None
(d) Cactus Plain	natural area	2,720	None	None	2,720	2,720	2,720
(e) La Posa Plain	grazing	None	1,040	None	1,920	2,960	None
(f) Mohave Mountains	wildlife	13,280	9,920	None	640	15,840	12,480
(g) Aubrey Hills	wildlife/scenic	1,760	None	None	None	1,760	1,760
(h) Bill Williams Mtns.	wildlife	9,360	8,160	None	None	10,000	8,960
(i) Gibraltar Mtns.	wildlife	1,280	1,280	None	None	None	None
(j) Gibraltar Mtns.	natural area	None	None	None	None	6,020*	6,020*
(k) Banded Canyon	natural area	None	None	None	None	640	640
(l) Topock North	wildlife	60	60	None	None	60	None
(m) Trigo Mountains	wildlife	1,210	770	None	None	1,210	1,210
(n) Trigo Mtns. South	wildlife	590	1,230	None	None	1,230	1,230
Total Land Acquisitions (acres)		31,220	26,620	4,320	10,080	50,120	35,980
3. Agricultural Leases and Permits (acres)		lease 4,205; retain 1,670, determine future disposition of 2,535 through further floodplain analysis	lease 4,205	dispose 2,535, lease 1,670	dispose 2,535 lease 1,670	retain in federal ownership and lease 4,205	retain in federal ownership and terminate all leases after 1985

* Acquisition of mineral estate only.

Disposals

Under the *Preferred Alternative*, all federal lands in Areas 1–8 and 10–12 (55,490 acres) would be available for disposal (see Map 9).

Area 10 (approximately 1,100 acres) would be available for disposal only in full compensation for the federal land debt resulting from the Central Arizona Project. This debt settlement may involve transfer of Area 10 lands to: a) the State of Arizona and b) Lake Havasu City under *Recreation and Public Purposes* authority.

Areas 11 and 12 (approximately 11,200 acres) would be available for transfer to Arizona through exchange or State Indemnity Selection. All other disposal areas would be available for transfer through exchange or sale, with exchange being the preferred method of disposal.

Lands within Area 11 (3,325 acres) would be subject to release by Congress from wilderness study before disposal could occur.

Acquisitions

BLM would also attempt to acquire 31,220 acres through exchange to benefit federal programs. The locations, proposed uses and acreages for acquired lands are described below and on Map 9. Except for those acquired for wilderness, these lands would all be open to mineral entry and development in accordance with mining law and regulations.

1) 960 acres of state land in the East Cactus Plain for unique natural values
2) 2,720 acres of state land in Cactus Plain for unique natural values
3) 13,280 acres of private and state land in the Mohave Mountains for bighorn sheep habitat
4) 1,760 acres of private land in Aubrey Hills for wildlife and scenic values
5) 9,360 acres of state and private land in the Bill Williams Mountains for wildlife values
6) 1,280 acres of state land in the Gibraltar Mountains for wildlife values
7) 60 acres of private land in Topock North for wildlife values
8) 1,800 acres of state land in the Trigo Mountains for wildlife values

Agricultural Permits and Leases

Approximately 4,205 acres of lands administered by BLM in the Yuma District are currently used for agricultural purposes under a special agricultural permit and lease program. These lands are all located along the Colorado River, 2,535 acres outside the levees and 1,670 acres inside (between the river and the flood control levee).

Under the *Preferred Alternative*, agricultural permits and leases for the **1,670** acres in the floodplain would be replaced with agricultural leases issued under BLM's land use authorizations program as outlined in federal regulations and BLM Manual 2920. The issuance of these leases, however, would be contingent on legal water rights being secured under state water law and in accordance with the Colorado River Adjudication of 1964. At the present time, only two agricultural users on 142 acres do not have a legal water source.

The **2,535** acres of agricultural lands outside the levee would be retained in federal ownership and leased for agricultural use. The ultimate disposition of these lands will be determined following further analysis, including delineation of the 100-year floodplain.

Agricultural lands that are not leased would revert to uses that would benefit other programs carried out by BLM such as development for recreational use or return to natural condition for use as wildlife habitat.

TABLE 2-5: PROPOSED UTILITY CORRIDOR DESIGNATIONS, BY ALTERNATIVE
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

ID No.	Name	Corridor Length by Alternative (Miles) Preferred	A	B[a]	C	D	E
1A.	CDCA "F"	16	—	—	16	16	—
1B.	CDCA "F"[b]	—	—	—	—	—	16
2A.	Davis-Parker "A"	33	—	—	—	33	33
2B.	Davis-Parker "B"	—	—	—	31	—	—
3.	Interstate 40[c]	20	—	—	20	20	20
4.	San Juan	6	—	—	6	6	6
5.	Parker-Liberty[b]	29	—	—	29	29	29
6A.	Parker-Blaisdell	—	79	—	107	107	107
6B.	Parker-Blaisdell[b]	110	—	—	—	—	—
7.	Interstate 10	22	22	—	8	8	8
8.	Palo Verde-Devers	23	—	—	23	23	23
9.	Interconnection	48	—	—	48	48	48
10.	R-O-W 3	—	38	—	—	—	—
11.	Interstate 8	—	58	—	—	—	—
12.	R-O-W 6	—	22	—	—	—	—
Total Length		307	219	0	288	290	290

[a] No corridors designated under Alternative B. All public lands subject to application for location of transmission facilities.

[b] Corridor width constrained to less than one mile in some places.

[c] Two-mile-wide corridor. All other corridors one mile wide.

ISSUE 5: Rights-of-Way for Utility Corridors and Communication Sites

Under the *Preferred Alternative*, new utility and communications facilities would be located in designated corridors and sites, unless an evaluation of the project shows that location outside of a designated area is the only practicable alternative. However, locating facilities outside of designated corridors and sites would be prohibited in special management areas and would be avoided insofar as possible in priority wildlife habitat areas. Map 8 shows the routes and locations of corridors and sites designated in this alternative.

Utility Corridors

Nine existing and proposed rights-of-way (**307** total miles) would be designated as utility corridors to accommodate recent and future development needs. The length and width of each corridor is shown in Table 2-5. **These designated corridors would apply to BLM-administered lands only.**

Portions of four corridors would be constrained or routed to protect natural values and to promote consistency with other government agencies. These are:

1) The Parker-Liberty corridor would narrow to a 330-foot width along the two-mile portion passing through bighorn sheep lambing grounds in the Buckskin Mountains.
2) The eastern boundary of the one-mile-wide CDCA "F" corridor would be formed by the Ft. Mohave Indian Reservation for five miles as it passes by the reservation.
3) The Davis-Parker "A" corridor would be designated up to the state lands surrounding Lake Havasu City. This corridor would be designated rather than Davis-Parker "B" in order to avoid Crossman Peak Natural Scenic Area.
4) **The Parker-Blaisdell corridor would shift two miles to the northwest of its original centerline for seven miles and narrow to less than a one-mile width in places in order to avoid recreational developments along the Parker Strip segment of the Colorado River (see Map 8). This segment of the corridor would be constrained by an existing transmission line to the northwest and the Parker Dam Highway to the southeast.**

   Along the Cactus Plain, the Parker-Blaisdell corridor would shift one to two miles east of the existing powerline and narrow to a one-half-mile width for 10 miles in order to avoid lands identified for transfer to Arizona (see Map 8). It would also narrow to less than a one-mile width as it passes Black Peak in order to avoid the construction of transmission facilities on the peak itself.

In addition, the entire 22-mile length of the Interstate 10 corridor is designated in the *Preferred Alternative* in order to supplement the Palo Verde-Devers corridor (PV-D) which has nearly reached its carrying capacity due to topographic constraints.

Three corridors identified in the 1975 MFPs — Interstate 8 and ROWs 3 and 6 (see Map 8) — would not be designated in the *Preferred Alternative* for the following reasons:

1) Neither ROW 3 or 6 has existing lines.
2) Public input discouraged the location of facilities along ROW 3 and Interstate 8.
3) Few public lands are involved in any of these potential corridors.

Communication Sites

Nine communication sites (101.3 total acres) would be designated to accommodate present and future needs. Table 2-6 lists designated sites and their acreages.

All communication facilities on Black Peak — one of the nine sites proposed for designation under the *Preferred Alternative* — would be phased out and relocated at a suitable alternate site through negotiation with the Colorado River Indian Tribes and the site lessees.

ISSUE 8: Recreation

Recreation management guidelines for the *Preferred Alternative* are divided into those applicable to all BLM-administered recreation lands in the district and those specifically applicable to: a) the Colorado River and other floodplains, b) length-of-stay, c) management of concessions and leases, d) winter visitor use, e) off-road vehicle use and f) wood collection.

General

Under the *Preferred Alternative*, BLM's principle objective would be to ensure that adequate recreation opportunities are provided for a broad range of recreating publics. Yuma District would accomplish this objective through a mix of BLM, other public agency and privately-operated recreation facilities on BLM-administered lands (see *Appendix H* for list of existing sites and facilities). Recreation facilities developed and operated by other public agencies or private enterprise would continue to be provided under long-term leases. Management of recreation leases is described further under this recreation alternative.

The Pittsburg Point area (approximately 1,100 acres) of Lake Havasu State Park would be transferred to the State of Arizona and Lake Havasu City (see Land Ownership Adjustments under this alternative). **All other present** recreation use areas on BLM-administered lands would continue to be used and managed for recreation. Whether currently leased or managed by BLM, these recreation lands would be retained in federal ownership to ensure that

TABLE 2-6: PROPOSED COMMUNICATION SITE DESIGNATIONS BY ALTERNATIVE
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Communication Site	Facilities		Acres Proposed for Designation					
	Existing	Potential[a]	Preferred	A	B	C	D	E
1. Citizen's Utilities	1	2	10.0	10.0	*	10.0	10.0	10.0
2. American Cable TV	1	2	10.0	10.0	*	10.0	*	*
3. Black Peak	2	5	1.0**	1.0	*	1.0	1.0	1.0
4. Big Maria	5	5	30.0	30.0	*	30.0	30.0	30.0
5. Cunningham Peak	7	1	5.74	5.74	*	5.74	5.74	5.74
6. Airway Beacon	1	2	1.0	*	*	1.0	*	*
7. Stone Cabin	2	2	20.0	20.0	*	20.0	20.0	20.0
8. Telegraph Peak	19	9	6.56	6.56	*	6.56	6.56	6.56
9. Mohawk Pass	1	3	17.0	*	*	17.0	*	*
Total Acres			101.3	83.3	0	101.3	74.3	74.3

[a]Potential - number of additional facilities that could be supported on a site given current technology.

*Site would not be designated under this alternative.

**This site would be designated under this alternative, but BLM would negotiate with Colorado River Indian Tribes and lessees to phase it out of use.

a full range of public opportunities for Colorado River recreation would continue to be available in the future.

Where warranted by increased recreation needs and demands, the recreation program would be expanded to additional federal lands. Development of new and expansion of present recreation sites would be contingent upon demonstrating feasibility and need through economic, market and environmental analyses. These analyses would consider recreation use and demand, user profiles and preferences, natural values and benefits-costs at a minimum. Yuma District would periodically conduct recreation supply and demand studies to ensure that public needs for recreation on the Colorado River are being met.

Recreation Management in Floodplains

BLM-administered lands within or adjacent to the Colorado River floodplain would be managed for natural resource-based recreational use. Recreational use of these lands would be managed in a manner consistent with federal floodplain management regulations and the Bureau of Reclamation's needs for managing river operations. To the extent practical, given Yuma District's principal objective of meeting public recreation needs, these lands would also be managed for the maintenance of wildlife habitat and other resource values. **With the exception of the Pittsburg Point area of Lake Havasu State Park**, lands in or adjacent to the floodplain would all be retained in federal ownership to ensure that public opportunities for Colorado River recreation continue to be available in the future.

Along the Parker Strip, only floodproofed day-use facilities would be allowed within the 100-year floodplain. BLM's long-term intent would be to move overnight recreational use and associated development out of the 100-year floodplain and away from the river in order to ensure riverfront recreational access during periods of high water flows. New overnight facilities and structures on the Parker Strip would be located outside the 100-year floodplain. Existing permanent structures would be allowed to remain in the 100-year floodplain until they are substantially damaged from inundation, their useful life is gone, or the present leases expire.

On the rest of the Colorado River, only those permanent new facilities that can be floodproofed would be allowed in the 100-year floodplain. Examples include but are not limited to:

- Boat Service Facilities
- Ramadas
- Boat Ramps
- Picnic Tables
- Grills
- Trash Cans
- Outdoor Showers
- RV Sites
- Electric Hookups
- Mobile Retail Concessions

Existing permanent structures would be allowed to remain in the 100-year floodplain until they are inundated, their useful life is gone, or the present leases expire.

Short-term camping would be allowed in the 100-year Colorado River floodplain during periods of normal water levels, except where specifically prohibited. Prohibited areas would be indicated to the public by use of signs or fencing. Long-term winter visitor camping would be permitted in the 100-year floodplain only when specifically authorized within a concession management plan.

No new development of any kind would be allowed in the floodplain of desert washes.

Length-of-Stay

The length-of-stay for camping would be limited to 14 days **within any 28-day period** except in concessions, public agency leases and long-term visitor areas. BLM would coordinate with the counties to implement a length-of-stay in county ordinances where possible.

Management of Concessions and Leases

BLM would continue to lease recreation areas for concessionaire, state park and county park operation to ensure that recreation opportunities are provided for all publics. Private enterprise would provide services and facilities that are responsive to public needs and are appropriate in intensively developed recreation areas. Additional federal lands would be available for the expansion of existing or development of new recreation concessions and leases in order to ensure that public recreation needs are being met. However, such expansion and development must be compatible with the resource base. Where adverse impacts to natural values would result from recreation development, such development would either not be allowed or would be mitigated in a manner which protects the full integrity of the natural values.

BLM would regulate the type and intensity of development that occurs on leased lands in order to ensure that a wide range of recreational opportunities are provided for the general public.

Because concession areas are not intended for year-round residency, continuous occupancy of mobile home sites would be restricted to one 5-month period in a single year. Permanent residential use would be phased out as existing permanent residents leave the parks. The maximum length-of-stay for campers within developed concessions or other leased areas would be five months.

BLM would continue to recognize existing recreation lease rights or the sale of remaining lease terms. However, as existing recreation leases come up for renewal, extension or modification, BLM would review the leases according to the following guidelines. In cases involving extension or modification of existing leases, BLM would negotiate with the current lessee to make the proposed changes. When leases come up for renewal, BLM would explore all options for use of the land involved. Options that would be considered include negotiating with the current lessee, issuing a public prospectus in order to give potential bidders an opportunity to enter the district's recreation lease program, or converting the land to wildlife habitat or another form of recreational use. Where appropriate, BLM would change the standards of development to conform with RMP and floodplain management objectives and to respond to public needs. Recreation leases to state, county or other local public agencies would be similarly reviewed when due for renewal, extension or other modifications.

Winter Visitor Management

The existing interim designations for two long-term visitor areas (LTVAs) would be finalized and long-term winter visitor camping would be directed into those areas. Additional LTVAs would be established on the basis of a demonstrated need and compatibility with ongoing land and resource uses established in the RMP. Map 7 shows the location of these LTVAs.

Off-Road Vehicle Use.

Under the *Preferred Alternative*, 640 acres would be classified as open to intensive ORV use, 13,985 acres as limited to designated roads and trails, and 22,420 acres as closed to ORV use. ORV use would be limited to existing roads and trails on the remaining 1,154,955 acres in the District. An inventory would be completed following approval of the RMP in order to clearly ascertain "existing roads and trails" in the district (see *Glossary* for "road" and "trail"). However, "existing" will refer in the interim to those roads and trails that are present in the district at the date the plan is adopted. Priority wildlife habitat, special management, high use recreational and other areas with potential for significant conflict between ORV use and other resources and uses would receive priority consideration in the inventory. ORV designations are shown in Table 2-7 and on Map 2.

TABLE 2-7: PROPOSED ORV DESIGNATIONS, BY ALTERNATIVE
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

	Alternatives (acres)					
Type of Designation	Preferred	A	B	C	D	E
Open Intensive Use	640	640	640	0	640	0
Open Use	0	0	1,191,360	960,165	0	0
Limited to Existing Roads and Trails	1,134,075	693,835	0	244,265	1,134,075	0
Limited to Existing Roads and Trails/ Seasonal Closures	20,880 (1/1-6/30)	20,880 (1/15-4/15)	0	11,100 (1/1-6/30)	20,880 (1/1-6/30)	20,880[b] (1/1-6/30)
Limited to Designated Roads and Trails	13,985	13,985	0	11,080	13,985	916,735[c]
Closed Areas[a]	22,420	22,420	0	3,840	22,420	254,385
Undesignated	0	440,240	0	0	0	0
Total Acres	1,192,000	1,192,000	1,192,000	1,192,000	1,192,000	1,192,000

[a] Does not include area that would be closed to ORV use as a result of wilderness designations under this alternative.

[b] Under Alternative E, roads on lambing grounds (20,880 acres) would be closed seasonally in the short-term. ORV use on these areas could eventually be limited to designated roads and trails as a result of implementing this alternative.

[c] Under Alternative E, ORV use on 916,735 acres would be limited to existing roads in the short term but would eventually be limited to designated roads and trails.

Two competitive-use ORV areas would be designated in the district — the Parker 400 course and the Ehrenberg Sand Bowl. The season of use for the Parker course would be December 1 to February 28. If more than one race per year is proposed for the course, an environmental assessment will be developed to determine the number of events that would be authorized. A management plan would be developed to guide facility development and monitoring of impacts for each of the competitive use areas. These competitive use areas are shown on Map 2.

Wood Collection.

On areas with high wildlife values or where heavy recreational use has denuded an area of firewood, no collecting would be permitted. Specific non-collection areas are not designated in this plan; however, an estimated 7% of the district would eventually be designated as closed to wood collection through recreation activity plans. On the remainder of the district, no permits or fees would be necessary for recreationists collecting dead and detached firewood in the vicinity of their campsites for campfires. Collection of small quantities of plant material for noncommercial recreation, hobby or landscaping purposes would be permitted, except that the collection and possession of ironwood at any one time would be limited to three pieces with an approximate weight not to exceed 10 pounds.

Domestic and commercial collection or sales of fuelwood for home heating purposes would not be authorized.

Alternative A — Continuation of Present Management

This alternative continues implementation of the current Management Framework Plans (MFPs), existing activity plans and on-the-ground direction being carried out presently. It is the "No Action" alternative required by CEQ regulations. Under this alternative, resources are managed to continue the present levels and systems of resource use on public lands. The allocation of lands and resources remains essentially unchanged or reflects only those changes as identified in decisions in the current MFPs. In addition to the proposed actions below, see *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives.*

ISSUE 1: Wildlife Habitat

Wildlife habitat would be a priority consideration on approximately 183,740 acres under this alternative (see Map 3 and *Glossary* for definition of priority use area).

The existing MFPs and activity plans place no standard restrictions on improvements, development or other land uses in wildlife habitat areas. Proposed land uses and developments would continue to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis before being implemented in order to ensure compatibility with wildlife habitat objectives.

Riparian Areas

All of the remaining riparian areas administered by BLM along the Colorado, Bill Williams and Gila Rivers (approximately 23,100 acres) would continue to be managed with priority consideration given to maintenance as wildlife habitat. See the *Preferred Alternative* for a description of these areas.

Bighorn Sheep Use Areas

Bighorn sheep yearlong use areas (160,640 acres) in the following mountain ranges would be managed as priority wildlife areas:

1)	Bill Williams and Buckskin Mountains	93,440 acres
2)	Aubrey Hills	13,440 acres
3)	Trigo and Dome Rock Mountains	53,760 acres

Roads traversing approximately 9,220 acres of bighorn sheep lambing grounds would be closed during the lambing season from January 15 to April 15 (see Map 3 for lambing areas) except for emergency access and access relating to certain valid existing uses.

Acquisitions

BLM would attempt to acquire 21,420 acres of state and private lands adjacent to or encompassed by priority wildlife areas through exchange where possible (see Table 2-4, *Land Ownership Adjustments*).

ISSUE 2: Special Management Areas

Cultural Resources.

Cultural resources would continue to be managed at present levels and protected. No special management prescriptions would be established for cultural resources under this alternative. These resources would continue to be managed at present levels and protected to the extent required by the *National Historic Preservation Act* and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 800) as described in the *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* section of this chapter. Current physical and administrative protection measures would be continued.

Unique Natural Areas and Features

The Yuma District would continue to manage unique natural areas and features according to guidelines established in the 1975 MFPs for Havasu, La Paz and Yuma Planning Units. The MFPs identified six areas totaling 102,600 acres for designation as special management areas in recognition of their unique natural values. These designations have not been formalized, but would be under this alternative. Four other areas totaling 56,950 acres would not be designated special management areas; however, management prescriptions for protection of the natural values would be adopted. See Table 2-1 for a list of the 10 areas that would be protected under this alternative and Map 7 for their locations.

The existing MFPs do not place standard restrictions on improvements, development and other land uses in special management areas. However, proposed land uses and developments would continue to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis before being implemented in order to ensure consistency and compatibility with the general objectives for managing and protecting these natural areas and features. No utility rights-of-way would be authorized in any of these areas; the MFPs established designated corridors for this use. In accordance with the 1979 off-road vehicle designations, ORV use would continue to be limited to existing roads and trails in these special management areas.

ISSUE 3: Grazing Management

Objectives for *Alternative A* would be to continue managing grazing without allotment management plans (AMPs), to issue grazing permits and collect annual grazing fees, and to continue managing the ephemeral allotments in accordance with the special ephemeral rule (see Map 8 for allotment boundaries).

Authorized Use

This alternative proposes no changes in the authorized annual stocking rate of 3,998 AUMs for the district's four perennial-ephemeral (P-E) allotments (see Table 2-2 for AUMs on individual allotments). Ten ephemeral allotments would continue to be administered under the special ephemeral rule (see *Appendix G-8*).

Rangeland Developments

BLM would construct no new rangeland developments for livestock grazing management, but would continue to maintain existing developments. Operator-built developments would be authorized on a case-by-case basis through cooperative agreements or range improvement permits where needed for livestock control and to ensure orderly use of the range.

Land Acquisitions

Under *Alternative A*, BLM would attempt to acquire through exchange 5,200 acres of state land located within the Canado and Nine-Mile allotments in order to ensure effective grazing management on federal lands (see Map 9 and Table 2-4).

ISSUE 4: Land Ownership Adjustment

A summary of land ownership adjustment actions appears in Table 2-4.

Disposals

Under *Alternative A*, 7,268 acres of federal lands identified in the MFPs would be available for transfer out of federal ownership. These disposal areas are shown on Map 9 and include Areas 1 and 2 as well as all public lands north of Interstate 40.

Acquisitions

BLM would also attempt to acquire 26,620 acres of surface and subsurface through exchange to benefit federal programs. The locations, proposed uses and acreages for acquired lands are described in Table 2-4 and shown on Map 9.

Agricultural Leases and Permits

Special agricultural permits and leases for 4,205 acres of public lands would be replaced with agricultural leases issued under BLM's land use authorizations program as outlined in federal regulations and BLM Manual 2920. The issuance of these leases, however, would be contingent upon legal water rights being secured under state law and in accordance with the Colorado River water adjudication. At the present time, only two agricultural users on 142 acres do not have a legal water source.

ISSUE 5: Rights-of-Way for Utility Corridors and Communication Sites

Under *Alternative A*, new utility and communication facilities would be located in existing designated corridors where feasible. Map 8 shows the locations and routes of corridors and sites designated in this alternative.

Utility Corridors

Five one-mile-wide utility corridors (219 total miles) designated in the 1975 MFPs would continue to accommodate present and future demands. Table 2-5 lists corridors designated and their lengths in miles.

Communication Sites

Seven communication sites designated in the 1975 MFPs (83.3 total acres) would continue to accommodate present and future communications facilities. Table 2-6 lists designated sites and their acreages.

ISSUE 6: Recreation

Recreation management guidelines for *Alternative A* are divided into those applicable to all BLM-administered recreation lands in the district and those specifically applicable to: a) the Colorado River and other floodplains, b) length-of-stay, c) management of concessions and leases, d) winter visitor use, e) off-road vehicle use and f) wood collection.

General

Under *Alternative A*, BLM's principal recreation objective would continue to be to ensure that adequate recreation opportunities are provided for a broad range of recreating publics. Yuma District would continue to accomplish this objective through a mix of BLM, other public agency, and privately operated recreation facilities on BLM-administered lands (see *Appendix H* for list of existing sites and facilities). Recreation facilities developed and operated by other public agencies or private enterprise would continue to be authorized under long-term leases. Management of recreation leases is described further in this recreation alternative.

Present recreation use areas on BLM-administered lands would continue to be used and managed for recreation. Whether currently leased or managed by BLM, these lands would all be retained in federal ownership to ensure that public opportunities for recreation would continue to be available in the future. Recreation use would continue to be managed as directed in the 1975 Management Framework Plans (MFPs) and in accordance with floodplain regulations and other legally mandated considerations. Recreation facilities would be designed to accommodate existing use pressures but not to encourage additional use.

Recreation Management in Floodplains

Floodplain regulations would continue to be applied on a case-by-case basis as circumstances require.

Length-of-Stay

The length-of-stay for camping would be limited to 14 days within any 28-day period except in concessions, public agency leases and long-term visitor areas.

Management of Concessions and Leases

Through a program of public land leases, BLM would continue to encourage private enterprise and state and county agencies to provide a wide range of needed public recreation facilities where possible. BLM would develop and operate recreation facilities only for those existing demands which cannot otherwise be accommodated. BLM would continue to lease 14 recreation areas for concession operation, three areas for state park operation and six sites for county park operation (see *Appendix H*). Applications for the expansion of existing concessions or the extension, modification or renewal of leases would continue to be reviewed and analyzed on a case-by-case basis.

The type or intensity of developments on concessions would continue to be analyzed on a case-by-case basis. BLM would encourage a shift from year-round mobile home sites to RV sites in concessions.

Winter Visitor Management

Winter visitor campers would continue to be accommodated in the two interim long-term visitor areas (see Map 7). BLM facilities designed specifically for winter visitors would accommodate existing use pressures and provide minimum measures to protect the health and safety of visitors while reducing environmental impacts.

Off-Road Vehicle Use

The interim ORV designations established in 1979 would continue to be assigned to 751,760 acres of public lands in the Yuma District. These designations do not cover public lands north of Interstate 40 or in the Yuma Planning Unit portion of the district (see Table 2-7 and Map 3).

Under this alternative, ORV competitive-use areas would not be designated. Instead competitive race events would continue to be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. The Parker 400 race course was shown on the interim ORV designation map. Environmental assessments have been completed periodically to provide for the annual Parker 400 race.

Wood Collection

The Yuma District does not presently have an official policy regulating wood collection for campfire, hobby and landscaping use. Thus, *Alternative A's* management guidance for wood collection derives from state policy, MFP decisions, BLM Washington Office policies and the Code of Federal Regulations.

Under *Alternative A*, no permits or fees would be necessary for recreationists collecting dead and detached firewood in the vicinity of their campsite for campfires. In addition, free use of small quantities of dead plant material for non-commercial recreation, hobby or landscaping use would be allowed.

Four fuelwood policy guidelines would be in effect in this alternative:

1) Issue free use permits only to government units and non-profit organizations;
2) Limit domestic fuelwood permits to five cords per household;
3) Allow commercial sales of fuelwood; and
4) Confine small sales of dead vegetation for fuelwood to a single common area where possible.

Alternative B — Resource Production

This alternative is directed toward the production and use of resource commodities. Public lands and resources would be managed in a manner which maximizes resource production under the principles of sustained yield and multiple use while providing only the minimal environmental protection measures required by law. Demands for resource consumption and development could be accommodated with minimal restrictions whenever and wherever possible. Under this alternative, management direction is toward maximizing such values as livestock production, land development, minerals and energy development, OPR opportunities, and facility-dependent intensive recreation. These values are favored over wildlife habitat, cultural resources, primitive recreation, visual resources and other uses which promote protection or enhancement of natural and cultural resource values. In addition to the actions proposed below, refer to *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* for other actions applicable to *Alternative B*.

ISSUE 1: Wildlife Habitat

As a general rule, protection of key wildlife habitat would not be a recognized priority on public lands. All land uses and development needs would take priority over wildlife habitat concerns except where threatened and endangered species are involved. No emphasis would be placed on the development and maintenance of cooperative habitat management plans under the *Sikes Act* (see *Glossary*). Furthermore, no state and private lands would be acquired for the enhancement of wildlife habitat. Because there would be no priority areas, *Alternative B's* provisions for wildlife habitat are not shown on a map.

ISSUE 2: Special Management Areas

Cultural Resources

No special management prescriptions for cultural resources would be established under this alternative. These resources would be managed and protected to the minimal extent required by the *National Historic Preservation Act* and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 800) as described in the *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* section of this chapter. In effect, management of cultural resources would be directly related to potential surface disturbing activities in the district. Cultural resource inventories and protection measures would be performed in response to individual proposed projects.

Unique Natural Areas and Features

Under this alternative, no natural areas or features would be formally designated as special management areas. However, three areas totaling **116,595** acres would have management prescriptions applied for protection of their natural values (see Table 2-1 and Map 7). These areas are Cactus Plain (**76,060** acres), Crossman Peak (26,080 acres) and Muggins Mountains (14,455 acres). Allowable uses on these areas would include compatible activities or those uses whose impacts could be mitigated to preserve or enhance the recognized natural values. Improvements would be restricted to those compatible with the natural resources for which the area is recognized and, on Crossman Peak, to those permitted by the mining laws. No permits for sand and gravel operations would be authorized on these areas. No specific stipulations would be placed on rights-of-way or ORV use. Surface occupancy for oil and gas leases would be authorized.

ISSUE 3: Grazing Management

Alternative B's grazing management objectives would be the same as those described in the *Preferred Alternative*. In addition, areas that are currently unused would be made available for livestock grazing by the construction of new rangeland developments and implementing intensive management on two perennial-ephemeral allotments (Nine-Mile and Ganado). Allotment boundaries are shown on Map 8.

Authorized Use

BLM would continue to authorize a yearlong stocking rate of 3,998 animal-unit months (AUMs) and would authorize an additional 3,756 AUM's on the four perennial-ephemeral (P-E) allotments. Accordingly, the total amount of grazing use on P-E allotments would be 7,754 AUMs under this alternative (see Table 2-2 for the total

AUMs on individual allotments). A significant amount of the grazing increase would be through seasonal authorizations to use big galleta grass when it is green and palatable.

The remaining 10 ephemeral allotments would continue to be administered in accordance with the special ephemeral rule (see *Appendix G-8* for this rule and *Appendix G-2* for a list of ephemeral allotments in the district).

Allotment Categorization and Management

Alternative B's provisions for management of allotments in the M, I and C categories would be the same as those described in the *Preferred Alternative*.

Rangeland Developments

Management objectives for rangeland developments would be the same as in the *Preferred Alternative*. Range improvements proposed under *Alternative B* to accommodate the additional AUMs are described in Table 2-8. Funding and authorizations for developments would also be the same as in the *Preferred Alternative*.

TABLE 2-8: PROPOSED RANGELAND DEVELOPMENTS, ALTERNATIVE B
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Allotment	Development Type	Number
Nine-Mile	Boundary fence	26 miles
	Pipeline	7 miles
Ganado	Wells (equipped)	2
	Reservoir	1
	Pipeline	7 miles

Land Acquisitions

Under *Alternative B*, BLM would attempt to acquire through exchange 3,680 acres of state land in the Ganado and Nine-Mile allotments in order to ensure effective grazing management on federal lands (see Map 9 and Table 2-4).

ISSUE 4: Land Ownership Adjustments

A summary of land ownership adjustment actions appears in Table 2-4.

Disposals

Under *Alternative B*, all federal lands in Areas 1-12 **(57,810 acres)** would be available for disposal (see Map 9). **Area 10 (approximately 1,100 acres) would be available for disposal only in full compensation for the federal land debt resulting from the Central Arizona Project. This debt settlement may involve transfer of Area 10 lands to: a) the State of Arizona and b) Lake Havasu City under Recreation and Public Purposes authority.**

Areas 11 and 12 (approximately 11,200 acres) would be available for transfer to Arizona through exchange or State Indemnity Selection. All other disposal areas would be available for transfer through exchange or sale, with exchange being the preferred method of disposal.

Lands within Area 11 (3,325 acres) would be subject to release by Congress from wilderness study before disposal could occur.

Acquisitions

BLM would also attempt to acquire 4,320 acres of surface and subsurface through exchange to benefit federal programs. The locations, proposed uses and acreages for acquired lands are described in Table 2-4 and shown on Map 9.

Agricultural Permits and Leases

Management of agricultural permits and leases in *Alternative B* would be the same as in the *Preferred Alternative* except that all lands outside the levee (2,535 acres) would be transferred from federal ownership.

ISSUE 5: Rights-of-Way for Utility Corridors and Communication Sites

Under *Alternative B*, BLM would make as much public land as possible available for locating utility rights-of-way and communication facilities. No utility corridors or communication sites, however, would be designated for this purpose.

ISSUE 6: Recreation

Recreation management guidelines for *Alternative B* are divided into those applicable to all BLM-administered recreation lands in the district and those specifically applicable to: a) the Colorado River and other floodplains, b) length-of-stay, c) management of concessions and leases, d) winter visitor use, e) off-road vehicle use and f) wood collection.

General

Under *Alternative B*, BLM's principal recreation objective would be to maximize intensive types of recreation opportunities and developments, consistent with floodplain regulations and other legal mandates. Recreation facilities developed and operated by other public agencies or private enterprise would continue to be authorized under long-term leases. Management of recreation leases is described further under this recreation alternative.

BLM would continue to operate its existing recreation day-use and fee sites, except for those on the Parker Strip and at Squaw Lake which would be leased to concession operators (see *Appendix H* for list of existing sites and facilities). Additional developed recreation sites and winter visitor camping areas would be provided and operated by BLM on public lands outside of the Colorado River corridor.

Recreation Management in Floodplains

BLM-administered lands within or adjacent to the Colorado River floodplain would be managed primarily for recreational use in a manner consistent with federal floodplain management regulations and the Bureau of Reclamation's needs for managing river operations. Only those new and existing permanent facilities that can be floodproofed would be allowed within the 100-year floodplain and washes (see *Preferred Alternative* for examples). Other permanent facilities that are not or cannot be floodproofed would be relocated outside of the 100-year floodplain. Additional public lands would be provided to concessions for this purpose.

Provisions for short- and long-term camping in the floodplain would be the same as those described in the *Preferred Alternative*.

Length of Stay

The length-of-stay for camping would be limited to 14 days **within any 28-day period** except in concessions, public agency leases and long-term visitor areas.

Management of Concessions and Leases

BLM would continue to lease recreation areas for concessionaire, state park and county park operation. Private enterprise would provide services and facilities that are responsive to public needs and are appropriate in intensively developed recreation areas. Additional federal lands would be available for the expansion of existing facilities or development of new recreation concessions and leases in order to ensure that public recreation needs are being met. No undue limitations would be placed on the expansion of concession and lease areas onto adjacent federal land. Recreational day-use and fee areas that BLM currently operates on the Parker Strip and at Squaw Lake would be turned over for concession operation. In addition, BLM would not restrict either the type or intensity of development on recreation concession or lease lands. Permanent, year-round mobile home sites would be allowed on concession areas.

BLM would dispose of concessions and leases located on lakes with controlled water elevations (see *Appendix H*).

Winter Visitor Management

Winter visitor campers would be accommodated in the two designated long-term visitor areas (LTVAs; see Map 7). Long-term use would be directed into these areas. Additional LTVAs would be established as the demand for new areas arises.

Off-Road Vehicle Use

All BLM-managed lands in the Yuma District would be designated as open for ORV use and existing intensive ORV use areas would continue to be designated. Because of the districtwide open-use designations, there is no map showing *Alternative B's* ORV provisions.

Two ORV competitive-use areas would be designated in the district — the Parker 400 course and the Ehrenberg Sand Bowl. Other competitive-use areas would be considered on a case-by-case basis as the need arises. Rather than be restricted to one event annually as it is under present management, the Parker 400 course would be open to competitive events throughout the year. In order to accommodate multiple events, BLM would authorize the development of spectator facilities along the course. Examples include starting facilities, spectator viewing stands, restrooms, ramadas and snack bars.

Wood Collection

Management of wood collection would be the same as described in *Alternative A*.

Alternative C — Balanced Resource Use, Production

Alternative C provides for balanced use of all resources while maintaining environmental quality. Management direction provides both for resource production and resource protection in order to provide a variety of uses within the multiple-use and sustained-yield capabilities of the public lands. Conflicts and trade-offs between consumptive and nonconsumptive uses are balanced in order to provide an optimum multiple-use mix while protecting fragile natural and cultural resources from irreversible decline. In *Alternative C*, however, economic production is favored to some extent over environmental concerns. See *Management Guidance Common to All Alternative* for other guidance applicable to *Alternative C*.

ISSUE 1: Wildlife Habitat

Wildlife habitat would be a priority consideration on approximately **41,880** acres under this alternative (see Map 4). These areas are referred to as priority wildlife habitat in this RMP-EIS. Land uses and development that would be allowed in priority wildlife habitat areas are the same as described in the *Preferred Alternative*.

Riparian Areas

All of the remaining riparian areas (approximately **23,100** acres) administered by the BLM along the Colorado, Bill Williams, and Gila Rivers would be managed as priority wildlife areas. See the *Preferred Alternative* for a description of these areas.

Bighorn Sheep Use Areas

Bighorn sheep lambing grounds (approximately 11,100 acres) and a migration corridor (7,680 acres) in the following mountain ranges would be managed as priority wildlife habitat areas:

1) Bill Williams Mountains	3,200 acres
2) Mohave Mountains	1,860 acres
3) Aubrey Hills	1,360 acres
4) Buckskin Mountains	4,680 acres
5) Castle Dome migration route	7,680 acres

Stipulations for utility corridors and roads in these areas would be the same as those described in the *Preferred Alternative*.

Land Acquisition

BLM would attempt to acquire through exchange 640 acres of state and private lands adjacent to or encompassed by priority wildlife areas (see Table 2-4, *Land Ownership Adjustments*).

ISSUE 2: Special Management Areas

Cultural and natural values would be a priority consideration on the areas identified under this alternative (see Table 2-1 and Map 7 for natural areas). Allowable uses on priority cultural and natural areas would include compatible activities or those uses whose impacts can be mitigated to preserve or enhance recognized values.

Cultural Resources

Alternative C's provisions for cultural resources on 6,800 acres would be the same as those described in the *Preferred Alternative*.

Unique Natural Areas and Features

Under this alternative, no areas would be formally designated as special management areas. However, 12 areas totaling **214,880** acres would have management prescriptions applied for protection of their natural values (see Table 2-1 for list of areas). Allowable uses on these 12 areas would include compatible activities or those uses whose impacts could be mitigated to preserve natural values. Improvements would be restricted to those compatible with wildlife habitat and cultural resources and to those required by mining. Construction of a 14-mile boundary fence between the Nine-Mile and Ganado grazing allotments would be authorized on Cactus Plain. La Posa Plain would be fenced to exclude livestock, but no other grazing improvements would be allowed. No surface occupancy for oil and gas leases would be permitted on Cactus Plain, La Posa Plain, Big Marias, Laguna-Martinez and Yuma Desert.

Surface occupancy would be authorized on Crossman Peak, Whipple Mountains, The Mesa, Gibraltar Mountain, Banded Canyon, Milpitas Wash and Muggins Mountains. No sand and gravel permits or utility rights-of-way would be authorized on any of the 12 areas. ORV use would be limited to existing roads and trails on 11 of these natural areas but would be limited to designated roads and trails on the Big Marias.

ISSUE 3: Grazing Management

Under *Alternative C*, grazing management and objectives would be the same as those described in the *Preferred Alternative*, except that:

a) **a 14-mile boundary fence between Ganado and Nine-Mile allotments would be added to the list of range improvements,**

b) **all 10 ephemeral allotments (approximately 827,750 acres) would continue to be administered in accordance with the special ephemeral rule,**

c) **no specific restrictions would be placed on livestock use in the Cactus Plain SMA, and**

d) 6,080 acres of state land would be acquired by BLM in the Ganado and Nine-Mile allotments in order to enhance grazing management (see Table 2-4 and Map 9 for land acquisitions).

ISSUE 4: Land Ownership Adjustments

A summary of land ownership adjustment actions appears in Table 2-4.

Disposal

Under *Alternative C,* all federal lands in Areas 1-9 (45,480 acres) would be available for disposal (see Map 9).

Acquisitions

BLM would also attempt to acquire 10,080 acres of surface and subsurface through exchange to benefit specific federal programs. The locations, proposed uses and acreages for acquired lands are described in Table 2-4 and shown on Map 9.

Agricultural Permits and Leases

Management of agricultural permits and leases would be the same as described under *Alternative B.*

ISSUE 5: Rights-of-Way for Utility Corridors and Communication Sites

Alternative C's objectives for locating new utility and communications facilities in designated corridors and sites would be the same as in the *Preferred Alternative.* Map 8 shows the routes and locations of corridors and sites designated in this alternative.

Utility Corridors.

Nine existing and proposed rights-of-way (288 total miles) would be designated as utility corridors to accommodate present and future development needs. The length and width of each corridor is shown on Table 2-5. **These designated corridors would apply to BLM-administered lands only.**

Portions of three corridors would be constrained or routed to protect natural values and to promote consistency with other government agencies. These are:

1) The Parker-Liberty corridor would be constrained to a 330-foot width along the two-mile portion which passes through bighorn lambing grounds in the Buckskin Mountains.
2) The east boundary of the one-mile-wide CDCA "F" corridor would be formed by the Fort Mohave Indian Reservation for five miles as it passes that reservation.
3) The Interstate-10 corridor, a designated corridor in BLM's California Desert District, would extend eastward from the California state line eight miles along the road and veer southeast to meet the Palo Verde-Devers corridor.

Communication Sites

In addition to utility corridors, nine communication sites (101.3 total acres) would be designated to accommodate present and future needs. Table 2-6 lists designated sites and their acreages.

ISSUE 6: Recreation

Recreation management guidelines for *Alternative C* are divided into those applicable to all BLM-administered recreation lands in the district and those specifically applicable to: a) the Colorado River and other floodplains, b) length-of-stay, c) management of concessions and leases, d) winter visitor use, e) off-road vehicle use and f) wood collection.

General

Under *Alternative C,* BLM's principal recreation management objectives would be to ensure that adequate recreation opportunities are provided for a broad range of recreating publics. Yuma District would accomplish this objective through a mix of BLM, other public agency and privately-operated recreation facilities on BLM-administered lands (see *Appendix H* for list of existing sites and facilities). Recreation facilities developed and operated by other agencies or private enterprise would continue to be authorized under long-term leases.

Present recreation use areas on BLM-administered lands would continue to be used and managed for recreation. Whether currently leased or managed by BLM, these recreation lands would all be retained in federal ownership to ensure that public opportunities for recreation would continue to be available in the future. Where warranted by increased recreation needs and demand, the recreation program would be expanded to additional federal lands. Development of new and expansion of present recreation sites would be contingent upon demonstrating feasibility and need through economic, market and environmental analyses. These analyses would consider recreation use and demand, user profiles and preferences, natural values and benefits-costs at a minimum. Yuma District would periodically conduct recreation supply and demand studies to ensure that public needs are being met for recreation on the Colorado River.

Recreation Management in Floodplains.

BLM-administered lands within or adjacent to the Colorado River floodplain would be managed primarily for recreational use in a manner consistent with federal floodplain management regulations and the Bureau of Reclamation's needs for managing river operations. Only those new and existing permanent facilities that can be floodproofed would be allowed within 100-year floodplains and washes (see *Preferred Alternative* for examples). Other permanent facilities that are not or cannot be floodproofed would be relocated outside of the 100-year floodplain. Additional public lands would be provided to concessions for this purpose.

Provisions for short- and long-term camping in the floodplain would be the same as those described in the *Preferred Alternative*.

Length-of-Stay

The length-of-stay for camping would be limited to 14 days **within any 28-day period** except in concessions, public agency leases and long-term visitor use areas.

Management of Concessions and Leases.

In *Alternative C*, existing concessions and leases would continue to be operated by the private sector and other public agencies. BLM would permit concessions and leases to expand onto adjacent public lands. Expansion would be limited, however, to those lands and facilities needed to accommodate a growth in recreational demand. BLM would also regulate the types of facilities that are developed in recreation concessions and leases in order to ensure that recreational opportunities for the general public are provided. Along these lines, BLM would strongly encourage a shift from permanent year-round mobile home sites to RV sites in concessions and leases.

BLM would review recreation lease terms as they come up for renewal, extension or modification in accordance with the guidelines described in the *Preferred Alternative*.

Winter Visitor Management

Winter visitor campers would be accommodated in two designated long-term visitor areas (LTVAs; see Map 7). Long-term use would be directed into these areas. No provision would be made in this alternative to establish additional LTVAs.

Off-Road Vehicle Use

Under this alternative, all public lands would be designated as open for ORV use, except in designated sensitive areas where ORV use would be limited as shown in Table 2-7 and on Map 4.

Two competitive-use ORV areas would be designated in the district — the Parker 400 course and the Ehrenberg Sand Bowl. No additional competitive areas would be designated in the district and the Parker 400 course would be restricted to one event annually. A management plan would be developed to guide facility development and monitoring of impacts for each of the competitive-use areas.

Wood Collection

No collecting would be permitted on areas with high wildlife values or where heavy recreational use has denuded an area of firewood (see Table 2-9 and Map 6). In the majority of the district, no permits or fees would be necessary for recreationists collecting dead and detached firewood in the vicinity of their campsites for campfires.

Collection of small quantities of dead plant material for non-commercial recreation, hobby or landscaping purposes would be permitted, except that the collection of ironwood would be limited to three pieces with an approximate weight not to exceed ten pounds.

Domestic and commercial collection of fuelwood for home heating purposes would not be authorized.

TABLE 2-9: RESTRICTED WOOD COLLECTION AREAS, ALTERNATIVES C AND D
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Area	Acres	Fuelwood Collection	Hobby Collection (3 pieces)	On-Site Campfire Collection
Riparian Areas	14,300	Not Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed
Standard Wash	3,840	Not Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
Parker Dam Road	3,200	Not Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed
Mineral and Osborne Wash	9,600	Not Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
Bullhead City Areas	3,200	Not Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
La Posa Plain	25,600	Not Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed
Senator Wash	25,600	Not Allowed	Allowed	Not Allowed
Oxbow and Sandy Cove	1,200	Not Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
Total Acres	85,540			

Alternative D — Balanced Resource Use, Protection

Alternative D provides for balanced use of all resources while maintaining environmental quality. Management direction provides for both resource production and resource protection in order to provide a variety of uses within the multiple-use and sustained-yield capabilities of the public lands. Conflicts and trade-offs between consumptive and nonconsumptive uses are balanced in order to provide an optimum multiple-use mix while protecting fragile natural and cultural resources from irreversible decline. *Alternative D,* however, favors protection of natural and cultural resources to some extent over economic production. In addition to the actions proposed below, refer to *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* for other guidance applicable to *Alternative D.*

ISSUE 1: Wildlife Habitat

Wildlife habitat management and priority areas would be the same as described in the *Preferred Alternative* except that 30,100 acres of state and private lands would be acquired to enhance management of priority wildlife habitat areas. This is 2,080 acres more than would be acquired under the *Preferred Alternative* (see Map 2 for areas protected and Map 9 for areas acquired).

ISSUE 2: Special Management Areas

Cultural and natural values would be a priority consideration on the areas identified under this alternative (see Table 2-1 and Map 7 for natural areas). Allowable uses on priority cultural and natural areas would include compatible activities or those uses whose impacts can be mitigated to preserve or enhance recognized values.

Cultural Resources

Alternative D's provisions for cultural resources on 6,800 acres would be the same as those in the *Preferred Alternative.*

Unique Natural Areas and Features

Under this alternative, 12 areas totaling 214,880 acres would be formally designated as special management areas. Allowable uses and improvements on the 12 designated special management areas would be the same as in *Alternative C* except that no surface occupancy for oil and gas leases would be permitted on any of these areas.

ISSUE 3: Grazing Management

Under *Alternative D,* grazing management objectives would be to emphasize protection and enhancement of other resource values by implementing a lower level of livestock use and grazing management than in the *Preferred Alternative.* Allotment management plans (AMPs) would also be developed in this alternative to improve or maintain desired rangeland condition.

Authorized Use

This alternative proposes a 40% reduction in authorized annual stocking rates over the next five years from 3,998 to 2,459 animal-unit months (AUMs) on four perennial-ephemeral (P-E) allotments (see Table 2-2 for AUMs on individual allotments). The remaining 10 ephemeral allotments would continue to be administered according to the special ephemeral rule (see *Appendix G-8*). Grazing on the portion of Nine-Mile allotment located north of Highway 72 would be restricted to present authorized levels since the area is part of the Cactus Plain WSAs and contains unique plant communities.

Allotment Categorization and Management

As in the *Preferred Alternative,* the Nine-Mile and Ganado allotments (P-E) are in the "I" category and would be managed intensively through AMPs (see *Preferred Alternative* for an explanation of categories). In *Alternative D,* however, management objectives would be to place special emphasis on other resources (e.g., watershed, special management areas and wildlife). Rangeland in good condition would be maintained while areas currently overused near existing water sources would be improved. Grazing treatments would involve a switchback grazing system for the Nine-Mile allotment south of Highway 72 in La Posa Plain (see *Glossary* and *Appendix G-7* for switchback grazing system). Grazing management on the Ganado allotment would involve fewer AUMs and rangeland developments. Site-specific objectives would be outlined in AMPs.

Present grazing management practices would not change on the Muse allotment (P-E) which is assigned to the "M" category. The Bishop allotment (P-E) — assigned to the "C" category — would continue to be managed custodially. The 10 ephemeral allotments are also placed in the "C" category.

Rangeland Developments

New rangeland developments are proposed in order to improve livestock distribution and allow the overused areas to be rested (see Table 2-10). No new rangeland developments would be allowed on the Cactus Plain

TABLE 2-10: PROPOSED RANGELAND DEVELOPMENTS, ALTERNATIVE D
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Allotment	Development Type	Number
Ganado	Well	1
	Pipeline	2 mi.
	Boundary Fence	14 mi.

WSAs, however, unless needed to protect other natural values, e.g., watershed, wildlife, plant communities.

Land Acquisitions

In *Alternative D*, BLM would attempt to acquire through exchange 9,680 acres of state land in the Ganado and Nine-Mile allotments to ensure effective grazing management on public lands (see Map 9 and Table 2-4 for land acquisitions).

ISSUE 4: Land Ownership Adjustments

A summary of proposed land ownership adjustment actions appears in Table 2-4.

Disposals

Under *Alternative D*, all federal lands in Areas 1,2,4,5,6,7 and 8 (41,840 acres) would be available for disposal, preferably through exchange (see Map 9).

Acquisitions

BLM would also attempt to acquire through exchange 44,100 acres of surface and subsurface, and 6,020 acres of subsurface to benefit specific federal programs. The locations, proposed uses and acreages for acquired lands are described in Table 2-4 and shown on Map 9.

Agricultural Permits and Leases

Lands currently under agricultural permits or leases that are not leased through the 2920 program would be returned to natural conditions for use as wildlife habitat.

Management of agricultural permits and leases would be the same as in *Alternative A*.

ISSUE 5: Rights-of-Way for Utility Corridors and Communication Sites

Alternative D's objectives for locating new utility and communications facilities in designated corridors and sites would be the same as in the *Preferred Alternative*. Map 8 shows the routes and locations of corridors and sites designated in this alternative.

Utility Corridors

Nine existing and proposed rights-of-way (290 total miles) would be designated as utility corridors to accommodate present and future development needs. The length and width of each corridor is shown in Table 2-5. **These designated corridors would apply to BLM-administered lands only.**

Portions of four of the designated corridors would be constrained or routed to protect natural values and to promote consistency with other government agencies. These are:

1) The Parker-Liberty corridor would be constrained to a 330-foot width along the two-mile portion which passes through bighorn lambing grounds in the Buckskin Mountains.
2) The eastern boundary of the one-mile-wide CDCA "F" corridor would be formed by the Fort Mohave Indian Reservation for five miles as it passes the reservation.
3) The Davis-Parker "A" corridor would be designated up to the state lands surrounding Lake Havasu City. This corridor would be designated rather than Davis-Parker "B" to avoid Crossman Peak Natural Scenic Area and proposed wilderness area.
4) The Interstate 10 corridor, a designated corridor in BLM's California Desert District, would extend eastward from the California state line eight miles along the road and veer southeast to meet the Palo Verde-Devers corridor.

Communication Sites

In addition to utility corridors, six communication sites (74.3 acres) would be designated to accommodate present and future needs. Table 2-6 lists designated sites and their acreages.

ISSUE 6: Recreation

Recreation management guidelines for *Alternative D* are divided into those applicable to all BLM-administered recreation lands in the district and those specifically applicable to: a) the Colorado River and other floodplains, b) length of stay, c) management of concessions and leases, d) winter visitor use, e) off-road vehicle use and f) wood collection.

General

In *Alternative D,* BLM's principal recreation objective would be to continue managing and providing facilities in existing recreation areas where there are no severe resource degradation or management problems. Yuma District would continue to provide a mix of BLM, other public agency and privately-operated recreation facilities (see *Appendix H* for list of existing sites and facilities). Recreation facilities developed and operated by other public agencies or private enterprise would continue to be authorized under long-term leases. Management of recreation leases is described further in this recreation alternative.

Whether currently leased or managed by BLM, present recreation use areas would be retained in federal ownership. Recreation sites that have management problems or severe resource degradation would be closed, although no sites are being considered for closure at this time. No expansion of recreation developments or long-term visitor use areas (LTVAs) onto new public lands would be allowed.

Recreation Management In Floodplains

BLM-administered lands within or adjacent to the Colorado River floodplain would be managed for natural resource-based recreation use. Recreational use of these lands would be managed in a manner consistent with federal floodplain management regulations and the Bureau of Reclamation's needs for managing river operations. To the extent practical given Yuma District's principal objective of meeting public recreation needs, these lands would also be managed for the maintenance of wildlife habitat and other resource values. These lands would all be retained in federal ownership to ensure that public opportunities for Colorado River recreation would continue to be available in the future.

Only day-use floodproofed facilities would be allowed within 100-year floodplains in the river corridor. Examples are:

- Ramadas
- Boat Ramps
- Picnic Tables
- Trash Cans
- Grills

All other existing facilities and structures would be removed from the 100-year floodplain through either renegotiation or expiration of the lease. No additional public lands will be provided for relocation of these facilities.

Neither long-term winter visitor nor short-term or weekend camping would be permitted in the 100-year floodplain.

Length-of-Stay

The length-of-stay for camping would be limited to 14 days **within any 28-day period** except in concessions, public agency leases and LTVAs.

Management of Concessions and Leases

In *Alternative D,* existing concessions and leases would continue to be managed by the private sector or other public agencies, but no leases for new concessions or public recreation areas would be issued. BLM would continue to manage and operate the recreation day use and fee sites it currently operates along the river corridor. In this alternative, BLM would permit no expansion of existing recreation concessions or leases onto adjacent public lands. Existing developments would be eliminated from areas where severe management problems occur. In such areas, leases would not be renewed when they expire.

BLM would regulate the type and intensity of development on leased lands and would strongly encourage a shift away from permanent yearround mobile home sites to RV sites in concession and lease areas. As concession and public agency leases come up for renewal, extension or modification, BLM would review the lease as in the *Preferred Alternative.*

Winter Visitor Management

Winter visitor campers would be accommodated in two designated LTVAs (see Map 7). Winter visitor camping use would be allowed only in these areas. No provision would be made in this plan to establish additional LTVAs.

Off-Road Vehicle Use

Under this alternative, **ORV use designations would be the same as those described in the *Preferred Alternative* (see also (Table 2-7).**

In addition, the current Parker 400 race course would be designated as a competitive-use area; however, its use would be restricted to one event annually. No other competitive-use areas would be designated in the district.

Wood Collection

Wood collection provisions would be the same as in *Alternative C.*

Alternative E — Resource Protection

Alternative E emphasizes non-consumptive uses of resources. Public lands and resources are managed for maximum protection and enhancement of the natural environment. More restrictions are applied to land use and development than under the resources production (B) and balanced resource use alternatives (C, D). Under this alternative, management direction is toward maximizing protection and preservation of wildlife habitat, cultural resources, scenic qualities, and primitive recreation opportunities. Consumptive uses such as mineral and energy development, land development, ORV use and intensive recreation are allowed only at levels which do not detract from or diminish natural and cultural resource values. No grazing is allowed under this alternative. In addition to the actions proposed below, refer to *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* for other guidance applicable to *Alternative E*.

ISSUE 1: Wildlife Habitat

Wildlife habitat would take priority over consumptive uses on **285,500** acres (see Map 5) of public lands. Consumptive uses would be relegated to areas of low value for wildlife habitat. Incompatible uses would not be allowed or would be mitigated in such a way that wildlife habitat values would be maintained or enhanced.

Improvements on priority wildlife habitat areas would be restricted to those compatible with wildlife habitat and cultural resources. Priority wildlife habitat areas would be withdrawn from all mineral entry. BLM would not dispose of priority wildlife habitat areas. Utilities would be confined to designated corridors and communication sites and roads accessing utilities would be closed to public entry. ORV use would be limited to existing roads and trails. **These management guidelines would apply to both the riparian and bighorn sheep use areas described below.**

Riparian Areas

All of the remaining riparian areas (approximately 23,100 acres) administered by the BLM along the Colorado, Bill Williams and Gila Rivers would be managed as priority wildlife areas. See the *Preferred Alternative* for a description of these areas.

Bighorn Sheep Use Areas

Bighorn sheep yearlong and seasonal use areas (254,720 acres) and one migration corridor (7,680 acres) in the following mountain ranges would be managed as priority wildlife areas:

1)	Bill Williams and Buckskin Mountains	93,440 acres
2)	Mohave Mountains	33,280 acres
3)	Aubrey Hills	13,440 acres
4)	Whipple Mountains	5,760 acres
5)	Black Mountains	17,280 acres
6)	Trigo and Dome Rock Mountains	53,760 acres
7)	Chocolate Mountains	12,160 acres
8)	Laguna Mountains	9,600 acres
9)	Gila Mountains	16,000 acres
10)	Castle Dome migration route	7,680 acres

Stipulations for utility corridors and roads in these areas would be the same as those described in the *Preferred Alternative*.

Land Acquisition

BLM would attempt to acquire 25,640 acres of state and private lands adjacent to or encompassed by priority wildlife areas through exchange where possible (see Table 2-4 and Map 9 for acquisition areas).

ISSUE 2: Special Management Areas

Cultural and natural values would be a priority consideration on the areas identified under this alternative (see Table 2-1 and Map 7). Allowable uses on special management areas for cultural and natural areas would include compatible activities or those uses whose impacts can be mitigated to preserve or enhance recognized values.

Cultural Resources

Cultural resources on 33 sites and areas totaling about 6,800 acres would be placed under the "conservation for future use" category, i.e., preserved in place, and would also be withdrawn from ORV use and mineral entry and development. *Appendix J* describes the various use categories and their criteria. Additional sites would be added to the list of special management areas for cultural resources as they are identified.

Allowable uses on the 33 cultural resource sites and areas would be those compatible with the objective of preserving these resources in place for future use.

Unique Natural Areas and Features

Fifteen areas totaling 256,660 acres would be formally designated as special management areas under this alternative.

Allowable uses on the 15 designated special management areas would include compatible activities or those uses whose impacts could be mitigated to preserve natural values. Improvements would be restricted to those compatible with wildlife habitat and cultural resources. The 15 designated areas would be withdrawn from all mineral entry. This is the no-grazing alternative; therefore, there would be no range improvements for the benefit of livestock. No utility rights-of-way would be permitted and all areas would be closed to ORV use.

ISSUE 3: Grazing Management

Alternative E would phase out all livestock grazing on public lands in the Yuma District over a five-year period. This alternative was developed to show the impacts from removing livestock and to provide the managers with a wider range of options to study.

Authorized Use

BLM would cancel all grazing permits and grazing preference on the 14 Yuma District allotments. All forage would be allocated to wildlife or wild horses and burros. No permits would be issued for ephemeral grazing. However, BLM would continue to monitor the rangeland for unauthorized grazing and for wildlife habitat conditions.

ISSUE 4: Land Ownership Adjustments

A summary of land ownership adjustment actions appears in Table 2–4.

Disposals

Under *Alternative E*, all federal lands would be retained in federal ownership. No areas would be available for disposal.

Acquisitions

BLM would attempt to acquire through exchange 29,960 acres of surface and subsurface, and 6,020 acres of subsurface to benefit specific federal programs. The locations, proposed uses and acreages of acquired lands are shown on Table 2–4 and on Map 9.

Agricultural Leases and Permits

Under this alternative BLM would retain all of the agricultural lands currently under permit or lease in federal ownership.

Agricultural permits would expire in 1985 with no right to renewal. Agricultural leases would be allowed to expire at the end of their present contract. No new 2920 leases would be issued and all agricultural lands would be returned to natural conditions for the benefit of wildlife habitat.

ISSUE 5: Rights-of-Way for Utility Corridors and Communication Sites

In *Alternative E*, no utility and communication facilities would be allowed to locate outside designated areas. Map 8 shows the routes and locations of corridors and sites designated in this alternative.

Utility Corridors

Nine existing and proposed rights-of-way (290 total miles) would be designated as utility corridors in order to accommodate present and future development needs. The length and width of each corridor is shown in Table 2–5. **These designated corridors would apply to BLM-administered lands only.**

Portions of four designated corridors would be constrained or routed to protect natural values and to promote consistency with other government agencies. These are:

1) The Parker-Liberty corridor would be narrowed to a 330-foot width along the two-mile portion which passes through bighorn lambing grounds in the Buckskin Mountains.
2) The CDCA "F" corridor would be narrowed to a 100-foot width **for five miles as it passes the west boundary of the Ft. Mohave Indian Reservation.**
3) The David-Parker "A" corridor would be designated up to the state lands surrounding Lake Havasu City. This corridor would be designated rather than "B" in order to avoid Crossman Peak Natural Scenic Area and proposed wilderness area.
4) The Interstate-10 corridor, a designated corridor in BLM's California Desert District, would extend

eastward from the California state line eight miles along the highway and veer southeast to meet the Palo Verde-Devers corridors.

Communication Sites

In addition to utility corridors, six communication sites (74.3 acres) would be designated to accommodate present and future needs. Table 2-6 lists designated sites and their acreages.

ISSUE 6: Recreation

Recreation management guidelines for *Alternative E* are divided into those applicable to all BLM-administered recreation lands in the district and those specifically applicable to: a) the Colorado River and other floodplains, b) length of stay, c) management of concessions and leases, d) winter visitor use, e) off-road vehicle use and f) wood collection.

General

In *Alternative E*, BLM's principal objective for recreation management would be to manage the public lands primarily for primitive types of recreation. Yuma District would provide intensive and intermediate types of recreation opportunities only in a few existing, fully developed recreation use areas. Eventually, all remaining recreation sites and areas would be operated by BLM.

BLM would continue managing and operating only those developed recreation sites and winter visitor camping areas where there are no resource degradation and management problems or where these problems are minimal at most. All recreation lands would be retained in federal ownership and no expansion of recreation developments or long-term visitor areas (LTVAs) onto new public lands would be allowed.

Recreation Management in Floodplains

BLM-administered lands within or adjacent to the Colorado River floodplain would be managed primarily for primitive or natural resource-based recreation use in a manner consistent with federal floodplain regulations and the Bureau of Reclamation's needs for managing river operations.

No recreational facilities would be allowed on public lands within the 100-year floodplain in the river corridor. In the case of recreation concessions and leases, all facilities would be removed from the 100-year floodplain upon cancellation or expiration of a lease. BLM would also remove its recreation facilities from the 100-year floodplain and continue to manage only those developed recreation day-use and fee sites outside the floodplain.

Neither long-term winter visitor nor short-term or weekend camping would be permitted in the river floodplain.

Length-of-Stay

The length-of-stay for camping on BLM-administered lands would be limited to 14 days within any 28-day period except in long-term visitor areas (LTVAs).

Management of Concessions and Leases

In this alternative, BLM would phase out all recreation concessions and leases on public lands through expiration of contracts and leases. No leases for new concessions or public recreation areas would be issued.

Winter Visitor Management.

Winter visitor campers would continue to be accommodated in those portions of two designated LTVAs (see Map 7) that are: a) fully developed to accommodate such use and b) free of resource degradation or management problems.

Off-Road Vehicle Use

ORV use on all public lands in the district would eventually be limited to designated roads and trails only (see Table 2-7 and Map 5). The roads to be designated for ORV use would be determined on the basis of an analysis of public access needs and other resource management factors. In the interim, this alternative would confine ORV use to existing roads and trails. No competitive use areas would be designated or competitive events authorized on public lands under this alternative.

Wood Collection

In *Alternative E*, no collection of wood products for commercial or domestic fuel use, campfires or hobby purposes would be permitted.

TABLE 2-11: SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection
AIR QUALITY, SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES	Air quality, soils and water resources would not be significantly affected under any alternative.					
CULTURAL RESOURCES	17,200 acres with known cultural resources sensitivity protected.	5,850 acres with known cultural resources sensitivity protected.	1,500 acres with known cultural resources sensitivity protected.	20,000 acres with known cultural resources sensitivity protected.	20,235 acres with known cultural resources sensitivity protected.	22,270 acres with known cultural resources sensitivity protected.
MINERALS AND ENERGY	6,800 acres (less than 1% of district) withdrawn from mineral entry.	No public lands withdrawn from mineral entry.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	508,890 acres (43% of district) withdrawn from mineral entry.
	No surface occupancy for oil & gas leasing on 17,900 acres (1.6% of district).	Surface occupancy allowed districtwide.	Same as Alternative A.	No surface occupancy for oil & gas leasing on 111,075 acres (less than 10% of district).	No surface occupancy for oil & gas leasing on 214,880 acres (17% of district).	No surface occupancy for oil & gas leasing on 508,890 acres (43% of district).
RANGELAND RESOURCES	Forage production would increase by 3,756 AUMs in the long term (94% over current preference). Special management area restrictions on the Cactus Plain and land disposals could prevent livestock use of 3,400 AUMs in the long term.	No change to forage production would occur under this Alternative.	Forage production would increase by 4,652 AUMs in the long term (116% over current preference). Land disposals could could prevent livestock use of 1,000 AUMs in the long term.	Effects on forage production would be the same as in the Preferred Alternative.	Forage production would increase by 1,756 AUMs in the long term (44% over current preference). Special management area restrictions on the Cactus Plain could prevent livestock use of 2,400 AUMs in the long term.	Forage production consisting of 8,650 AUMs would be lost in the short & long term.
RECREATION RESOURCES						
Colorado River Recreation Opportunities	Long-term increase in number of developed recreation opportunities would occur.	No change in number of developed recreation opportunities would occur.	Overall long-term increase in developed recreation opportunities, but loss of 5,000 visitor days of day-use opportunities per year.	Long-term increase in developed recreation opportunities.	No short-term change in number of developed recreation opportunities.	Long-term decrease in developed recreation opportunities (80,000 visitor days lost annually).

TABLE 2-11 (Cont'd)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection
	No noticeable change in users/clientele.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Substantial change in users/clientele could occur due to shift in types of recreation facilities provided, elimination of day-use opportunities, ORV-related noise and safety conditions.	Moderate change in users/clientele could occur due to ORV-related noise & safety conditions.	Moderate change in users/clientele could occur due to overcrowding & declining attractiveness of existing developed recreation sites.	Substantial change in users/clientele could occur due to overcrowding & declining attractiveness of developed recreation sites remaining open under this alternative.
	Future demand for developed recreation opportunities would be satisfied.	Some future growth in demand for developed recreation opportunities would not be met.	Future demand for developed recreation opportunities would be satisfied except some day-use & resource-based recreation demands.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Future growth in demand for developed recreation opportunities would not be met.	Some present & all future growth in demand for developed recreation opportunities would not be met.
	Losses in developed recreation opportunities could result if Pittsburg Point is transferred to Arizona.		Losses in developed recreation opportunitites could result if Pittsburg Point is transferred to Arizona.			
Long-Term Visitor Areas	Attractiveness of present recreation use areas would be maintained due to regulating wood cutting & collection.	Attractiveness of present recreation use areas would decline in the long term due to wood cutting & collection.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative except some decline in attractivity due to overcrowding.
NATURAL AREAS & FEATURES	Unique natural features on 68,190 acres would benefit from priority wildlife habitat management.	Unique natural features on 43,740 acres would be indirectly protected by management of priority wildlife habitat areas.		Unique natural features on 15,340 acres would benefit from priority wildlife habitat management.	Unique natural features on 59,100 acres would benefit from priority wildlife habitat management.	Unique natural features on 73,555 acres would benefit from priority wildlife habitat management.
	Unique natural features in the Cactus Plain and La Posa Plain areas would be adversely impacted by continued grazing use.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Unique natural features in the Cactus Plain area would be adversely impacted by continued grazing use.	Same as Alternative C.	Unique natural features in the Cactus Plain and La Posa Plain areas would benefit from the elimination of grazing.

TABLE 2-11 (Cont'd)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection
VEGETATION						
Riparian	23,100 acres would receive long-term protection.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Long-term adverse impacts could occur from not protecting 23,100 acres.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
Candidate T&E Plants	Potential long-term beneficial impacts on 6 candidate species; potential adverse impacts on 4 species due to ORV & LTVA use.	Potential long-term beneficial impacts on 8 candidate species; potential adverse impacts on 4 species due to LTVA use.	Potential long-term beneficial impacts on 5 candidate species; potential adverse impacts on 10 species due to ORV & LTVA use.	Potential long-term beneficial and adverse impacts on 11 candidate species.	Potential long-term beneficial impacts on 11 candidate species; potential adverse impacts on 4 species due to LTVA use.	Same as Alternative D.
Rangeland Vegetation	Long-term beneficial impacts on plant cover & vegetation condition would occur due to improved distribution of livestock use and more desirable levels of utilization on forage species.	Long-term adverse impacts on vegetation condition would occur due to poor livestock distribution and heavy utilization of vegetation within the areas of livestock concentration.	Long-term beneficial impacts on vegetation would occur due to improved livestock distribution and more desirable levels of utilization of forage species. Plant cover would not change significantly in the long term.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative but vegetation condition would improve at a slower rate.	Significant, long-term beneficial impacts would occur on browse vegetation. Overall plant cover would not significantly change.
VISUAL RESOURCE	No noticeable adverse impacts on visual resources would occur.	Adverse impacts on visual resources from the continuation of current wood collection management in high-use recreation areas.	Adverse impacts on visual resources from intensive grazing of perennial-ephemeral allotments, intensive ORV use in areas designated as open to unrestricted ORV use and continuation of current wood collection management in high-use recreation areas.	Adverse impacts from intensive ORV use in areas designated as open to unrestricted ORV use.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Beneficial impacts on visual resources from prohibiting wood collection in high-use recreation areas.			Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Beneficial impacts on visual resources from phasing out concession leases along the Colorado River and prohibiting wood collection on public lands.

TABLE 2-11 (Cont'd)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection
WILDERNESS VALUES	All or portions of 11 WSAs would be protected by priority wildlife habitat management.	All or portions of 6 WSAs would be protected by priority wildlife habitat management.		Portions of 6 WSAs would be protected by priority wildlife habitat management.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	All or portions of 9 WSAs would be protected by special management area considerations.	5 WSAs would be protected by special management area considerations.	All or portions of 5 WSAs would be protected by special management area considerations.	All or portions of 8 WSAs would be protected by special management area considerations.	All or portions of 9 WSAs would be protected by special management area considerations.	All or portions of 10 WSAs would be protected by special management area considerations.
	Adverse impacts from the disposal of 3,325 acres in Cactus Plain WSA.		Adverse impacts from the disposal of 3,325 acres in Cactus Plain WSA.			
	Beneficial impacts from the acquisition of 31,160 acres in and around WSAs.	Beneficial impacts from the acquisition of 23,610 acres in and around WSAs.	Beneficial impacts from the acquisition of 960 acres in WSAs.	Beneficial impacts from the acquisition of 4,000 acres in WSAs.	Beneficial impacts from the acquisition of 36,200 surface acres and 6,020 subsurface acres in and around WSAs.	Beneficial impacts from the acquisition of 28,200 surface acres and 6,020 subsurface acres in and around WSAs.
	Adverse impacts on wilderness values in 10 WSAs due to construction of new facilities in designated utility corridors.	Adverse impacts on wilderness values in 2 WSAs due to construction of new facilities in designated utility corridors.		Adverse impacts on wilderness values in 10 WSAs due to construction of new facilities in designated utility corridors.	Adverse impacts on wilderness values in 11 WSAs due to construction of new facilities in designated utility corridors.	Adverse impacts on wilderness values in 9 WSAs due to construction of new facilities in designated utility corridors.
	Beneficial impacts on wilderness values in all 22 WSAs due to limiting ORV use to existing or designated roads and trails.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Adverse impacts on areas in all 22 WSAs due to unrestricted ORV use.	Adverse impacts on areas in 13 WSAs due to unrestricted ORV use.	Beneficial impacts on wilderness values in all 22 WSAs due to limiting ORV use to existing or designated roads and trails.	Beneficial impacts on wilderness values in all 22 WSAs due to limiting ORV use to designated roads and trails.
				Beneficial impacts on 76,090 acres in 9 WSAs due to limiting ORV use to existing or designated roads and trails.		

TABLE 2-11 (Cont'd)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection
WILDLIFE HABITAT	403,525 acres of wildlife habitat would be maintained or improved due to priority wildlife habitat and special management area provisions.	274,950 acres of wildlife habitat would be maintained or improved due to priority wildlife habitat and special management area provisions.	116,595 acres of wildlife habitat would be maintained or improved due to special management area provisions.	246,965 acres of wildlife habitat would be maintained or improved due to priority wildlife habitat and special management area provisions.	442,580 acres of wildlife habitat would be maintained or improved due to priority wildlife habitat and special management area provisions.	508,890 acres of wildlife habitat would be maintained or improved due to priority wildlife habitat and special management area provisions.
	Adverse impacts could occur from disposal of 5,745 acres.	No change in wildlife habitat conditions from disposals.	Adverse impacts could occur from disposal of 8,065 acres.	Adverse impacts could occur from disposal of 3,640 acres.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.
	Long-term beneficial impacts would occur from prohibiting wood collection on 7% of the district.	Long-term adverse impacts would occur due to wood collection.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	No noticeable change in habitat condition overall from ORV designations.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Adverse impacts could occur on 1,192,000 acres due to ORV designations & use. Damage to desert tortoise habitat could occur from use of Parker 400 course for multiple events each year.	Adverse impacts could occur on 960,165 acres due to ORV designations & use.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Same as Preferred Alternative.
	Minor adverse impacts would occur due to grazing.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Major adverse impacts would occur due to increasing authorized grazing use by 94%.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Beneficial impacts would occur due to reducing grazing use by 40%.	Beneficial impacts would occur due to elimination of grazing.
T&E Species	Habitat for the Yuma Clapper Rail would be protected under all alternatives. Other T&E species would also benefit from priority wildlife habitat areas.					
ECONOMICS						
Impacts on Ranchers	Average annual revenue would increase to $45,700 due to increased forage production in the long term. However, special management area provisions and land disposals could reduce this to $36,400.	No significant change in revenue for ranchers would occur. Average annual revenue for ranchers would be $35,380.	Average annual revenue would increase to $47,400 due to increased forage production in the long-term. However, land disposals could reduce this to $46,000.	Same as Preferred Alternative.	Average annual revenue for ranchers would be $32,800. Special management area provisions could reduce this to $30,400.	$35,380 in annual revenue would be lost due to elimination of grazing.

TABLE 2-11 (Cont'd)
SUMMARY OF IMPACTS BY ALTERNATIVE

ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A No Action	ALTERNATIVE B Resource Production	ALTERNATIVE C Balanced Production	ALTERNATIVE D Balanced Protection	ALTERNATIVE E Resource Protection
Impacts on Recreation Concession & Lease Operators	Annual revenue could decline in the long term due to restricting continuous occupancy to 5 months and phasing out mobile home sites.	Annual revenue could decline in the long term due to encouraging a shift from mobile home to RV and campsites.	No measurable change in revenue in short term, but would probably increase in the long term.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Significant adverse impacts on concession operators would occur due to elimination of concessions and 100% loss of revenues.
Local Economic Impacts	County tax revenues could increase by up to $31,400 annually due to sale of public lands.	County tax revenues would decrease by up to $51,000 due to federal acquisition of lands.	County tax revenues could increase by up to $250,000 due to transfer of public lands out of federal ownership.	County tax revenues could increase by up to $235,200 due to transfer of public lands out of federal ownership.	County tax revenues could decrease by about $6,000 due to federal acquisition of lands.	County tax revenues would decrease by $140,760 due to federal acquisition of lands and elimination of agricultural use on public lands.
	Local retail and service industry receipts could decline due to restricting continuous length of-stay in mobile sites to five months.	Local retail and and service industry receipts could decline due to shift from mobile home sites to RV and campsites.	Local retail and service industry receipts would probably increase as a result of unrestricted development and expansion of the recreation concessions and leases.	Same as Alternative A.	Same as Alternative A.	Local retail and service industry receipts would decline by about 2.6%.
Regional Economic Impacts	The economic impacts on the region would not be significant under any of the alternatives.					

SOURCE: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1985.

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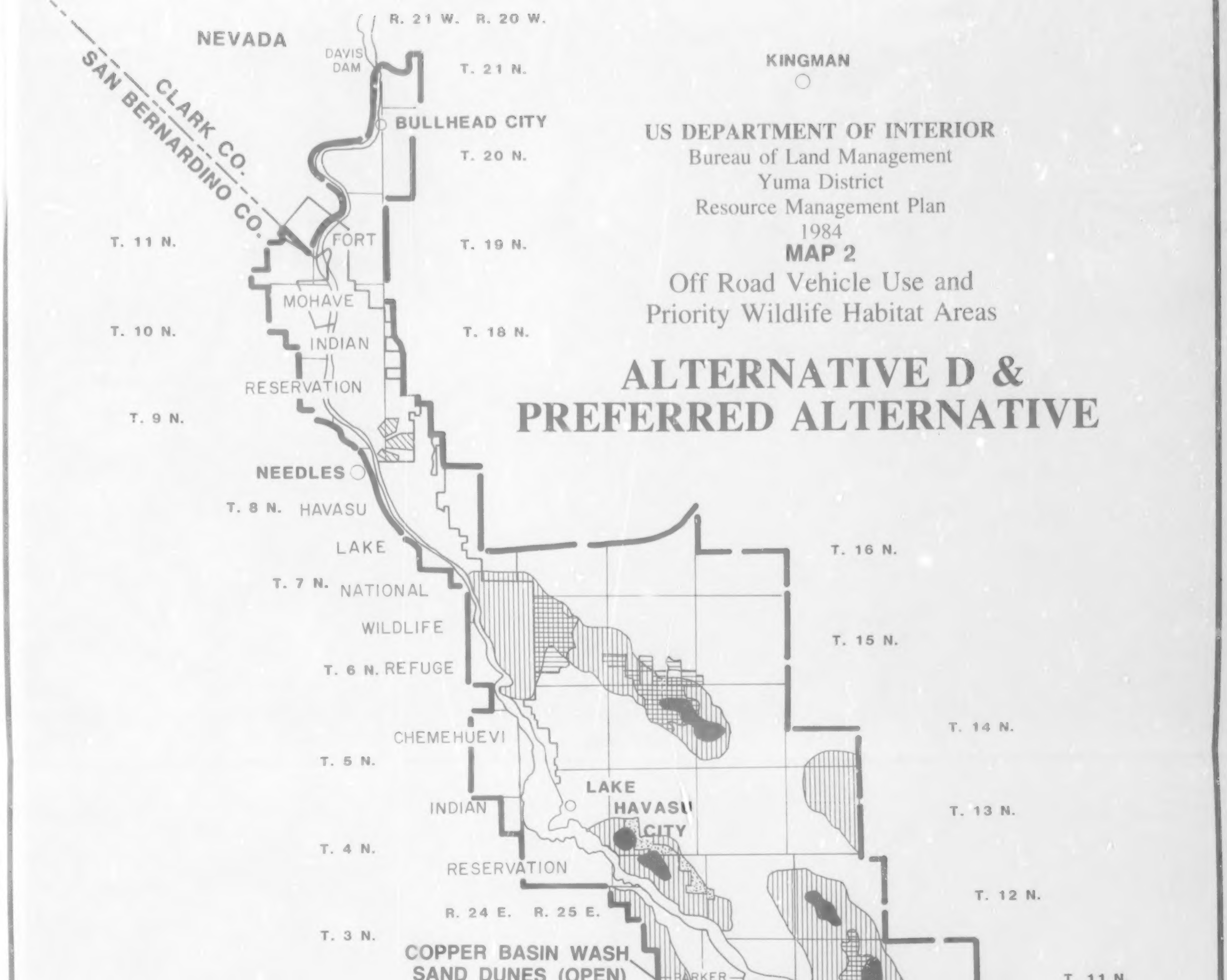
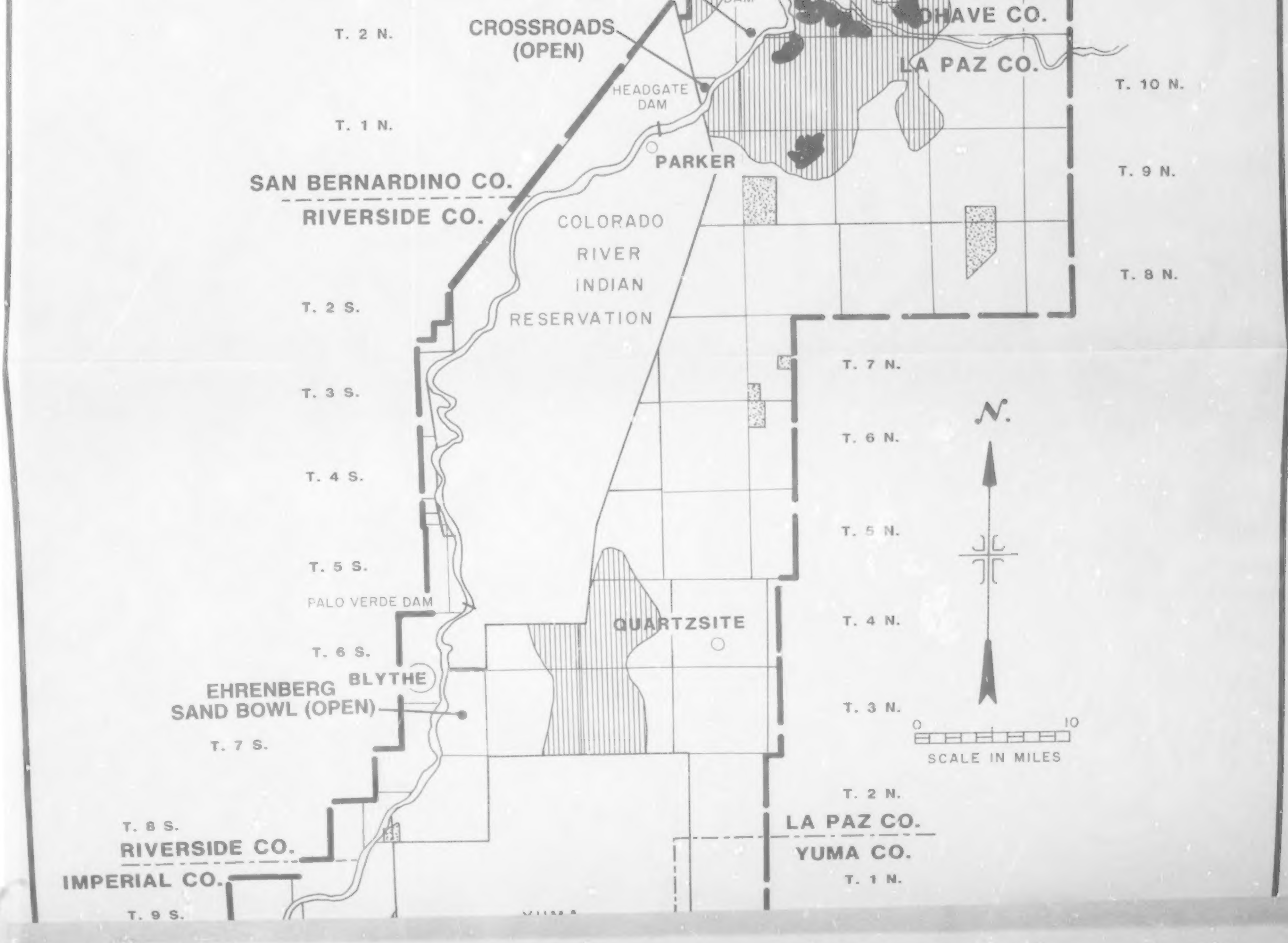
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District
Resource Management Plan
1984

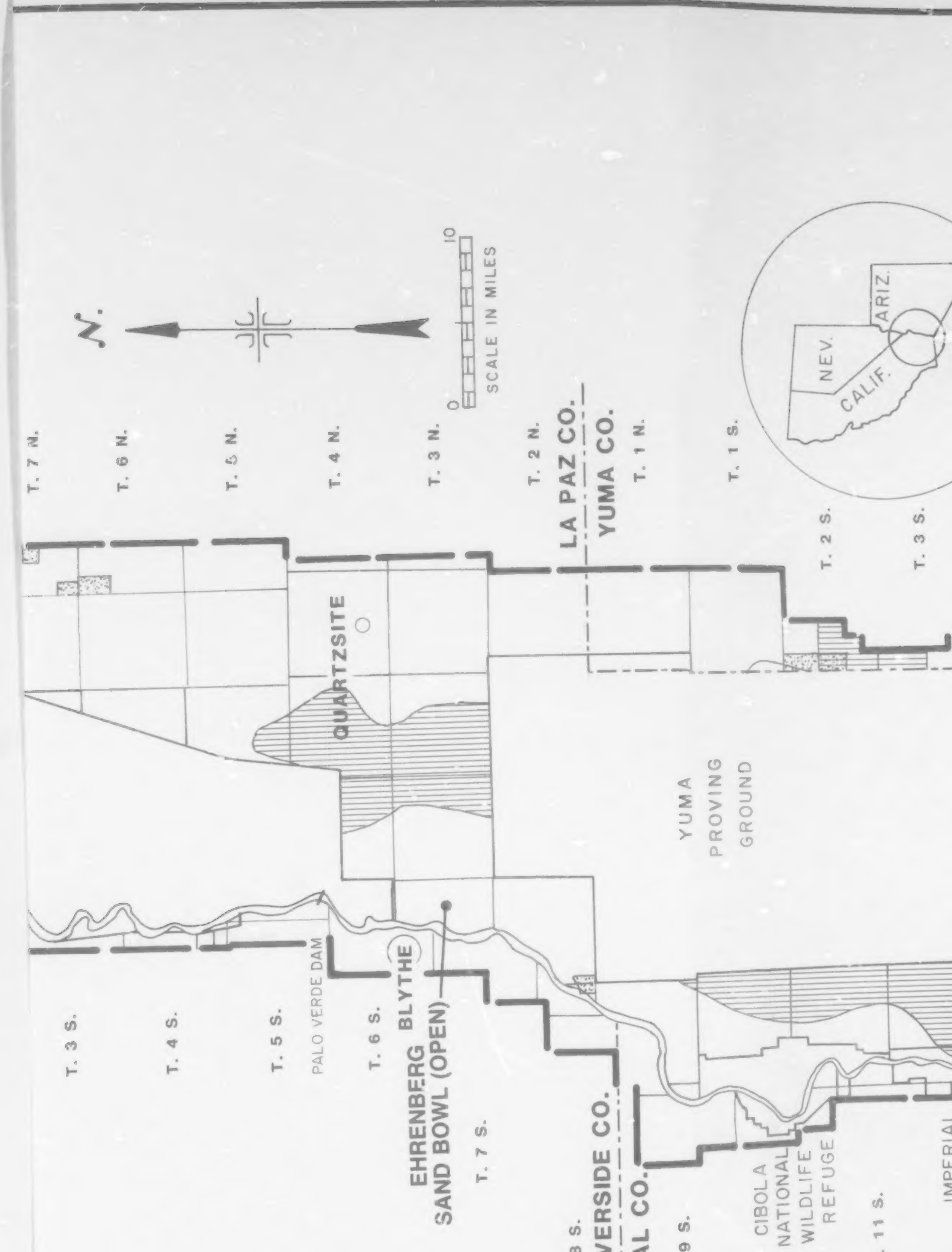
MAP 2

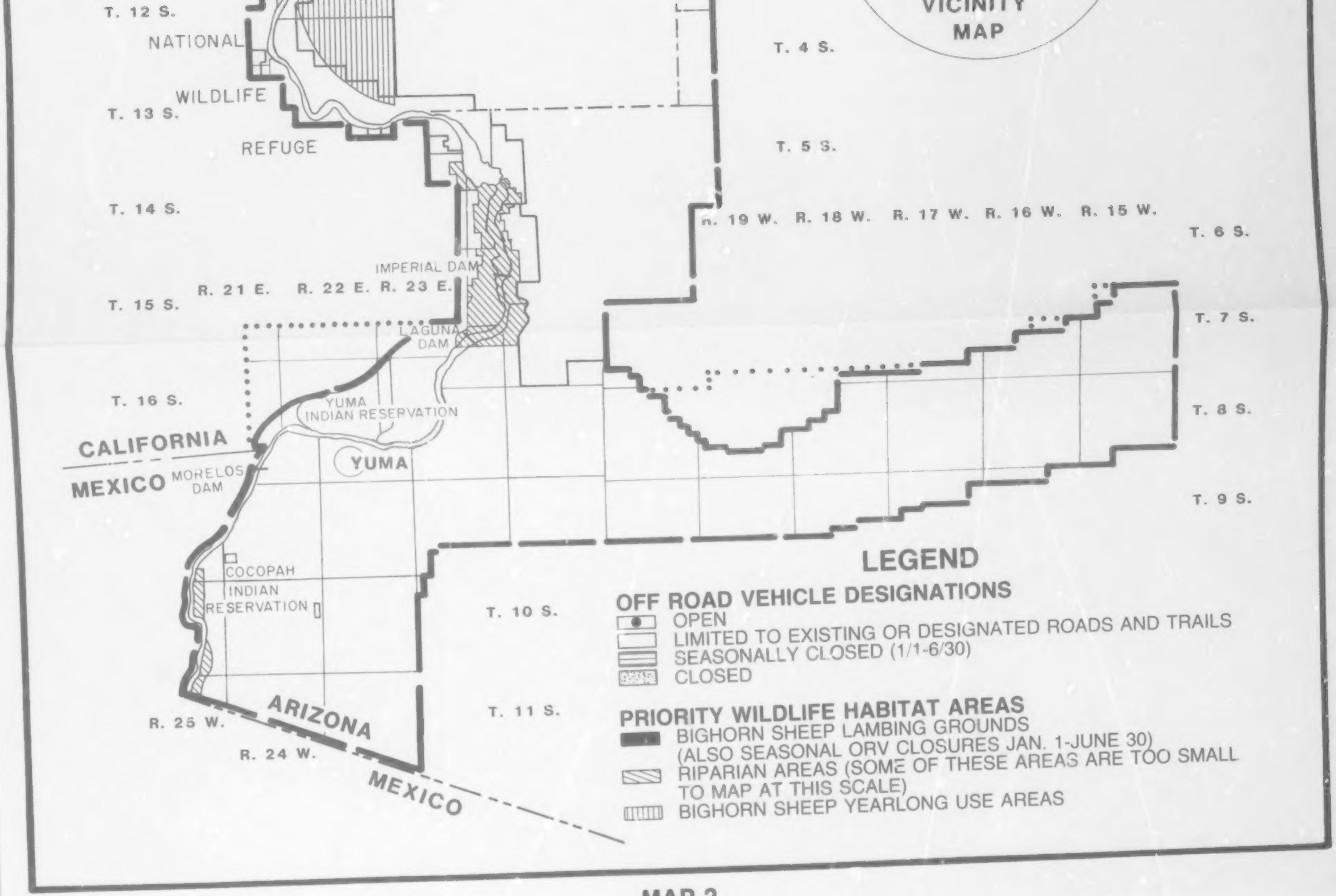
Off Road Vehicle Use and
Priority Wildlife Habitat Areas

ALTERNATIVE D &
PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

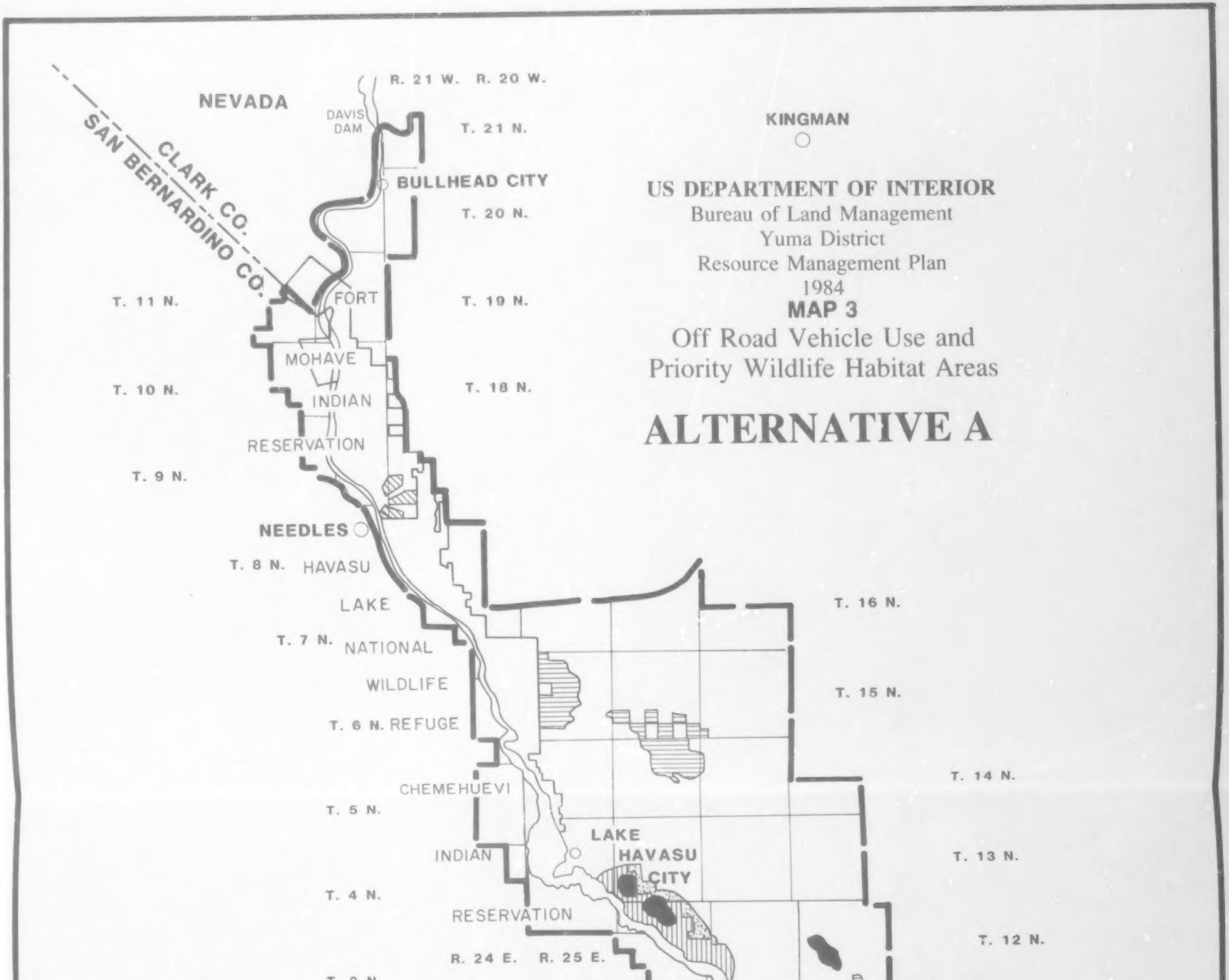

R. 21 W.
R. 20 W.
NEVADA
DAVIS DAM
KINGMAN
T. 21 N.
CLARK CO.
SAN BERNARDINO CO.
BULLHEAD CITY
T. 20 N.
T. 11 N.
FORT
T. 19 N.
MOHAVE
T. 10 N.
INDIAN
T. 18 N.
RESERVATION
T. 9 N.
NEEDLES
T. 8 N.
HAVASU
LAKE
T. 7 N.
NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
T. 6 N.
REFUGE
T. 16 N.
T. 15 N.
CHEMEHUEVI
T. 5 N.
T. 14 N.
LAKE
HAVASU
CITY
INDIAN
T. 13 N.
T. 4 N.
RESERVATION
T. 12 N.
R. 24 E.
R. 25 E.
T. 3 N.
COPPER BASIN WASH
SAND DUNES (OPEN)
PARKER


MOHAVE CO.
LA PAZ CO.
CROSSROADS (OPEN)
HEADGATE DAM
PARKER
SAN BERNARDINO CO.
RIVERSIDE CO.
COLORADO RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION
T. 2 N.
T. 1 N.
T. 10 N.
T. 9 N.
T. 8 N.
T. 7 N.
T. 6 N.
T. 5 N.
T. 4 N.
T. 3 N.
T. 2 N.
T. 1 N.
T. 2 S.
T. 3 S.
T. 4 S.
T. 5 S.
PALO VERDE DAM
T. 6 S.
BLYTHE
EHRENBERG SAND BOWL (OPEN)
T. 7 S.
T. 8 S.
RIVERSIDE CO.
IMPERIAL CO.
T. 9 S.
QUARTZSITE
N.
0
10
SCALE IN MILES
LA PAZ CO.
YUMA CO.


N.
0
10
SCALE IN MILES
NEV.
CALIF.
ARIZ.
T. 7 N.
T. 6 N.
T. 5 N.
T. 4 N.
T. 3 N.
T. 2 N.
LA PAZ CO.
YUMA CO.
T. 1 N.
T. 1 S.
T. 2 S.
T. 3 S.
QUARTZSITE
YUMA PROVING GROUND
T. 3 S.
T. 4 S.
T. 5 S.
PALO VERDE DAM
T. 6 S.
BLYTHE
EHRENBERG
SAND BOWL (OPEN)
T. 7 S.
RIVERSIDE CO.
IMPERIAL CO.
T. 8 S.
T. 9 S.
CIBOLA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
T. 11 S.
IMPERIAL


VICINITY
MAP
T. 12 S.
NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGE
T. 13 S.
T. 14 S.
T. 15 S.
T. 16 S.
T. 4 S.
T. 5 S.
T. 6 S.
T. 7 S.
T. 8 S.
T. 9 S.
T. 10 S.
T. 11 S.
R. 19 W.
R. 18 W.
R. 17 W.
R. 16 W.
R. 15 W.
R. 21 E.
R. 22 E.
R. 23 E.
R. 25 W.
R. 24 W.
IMPERIAL DAM
LAGUNA DAM
YUMA INDIAN RESERVATION
YUMA
CALIFORNIA
MEXICO
MORELOS DAM
COCOPAH INDIAN RESERVATION
ARIZONA
MEXICO
LEGEND
OFF ROAD VEHICLE DESIGNATIONS
OPEN
LIMITED TO EXISTING OR DESIGNATED ROADS AND TRAILS
SEASONALLY CLOSED (1/1-6/30)
CLOSED
PRIORITY WILDLIFE HABITAT AREAS
BIGHORN SHEEP LAMBING GROUNDS (ALSO SEASONAL ORV CLOSURES JAN. 1-JUNE 30)
RIPARIAN AREAS (SOME OF THESE AREAS ARE TOO SMALL TO MAP AT THIS SCALE)
BIGHORN SHEEP YEARLONG USE AREAS

MAP 2



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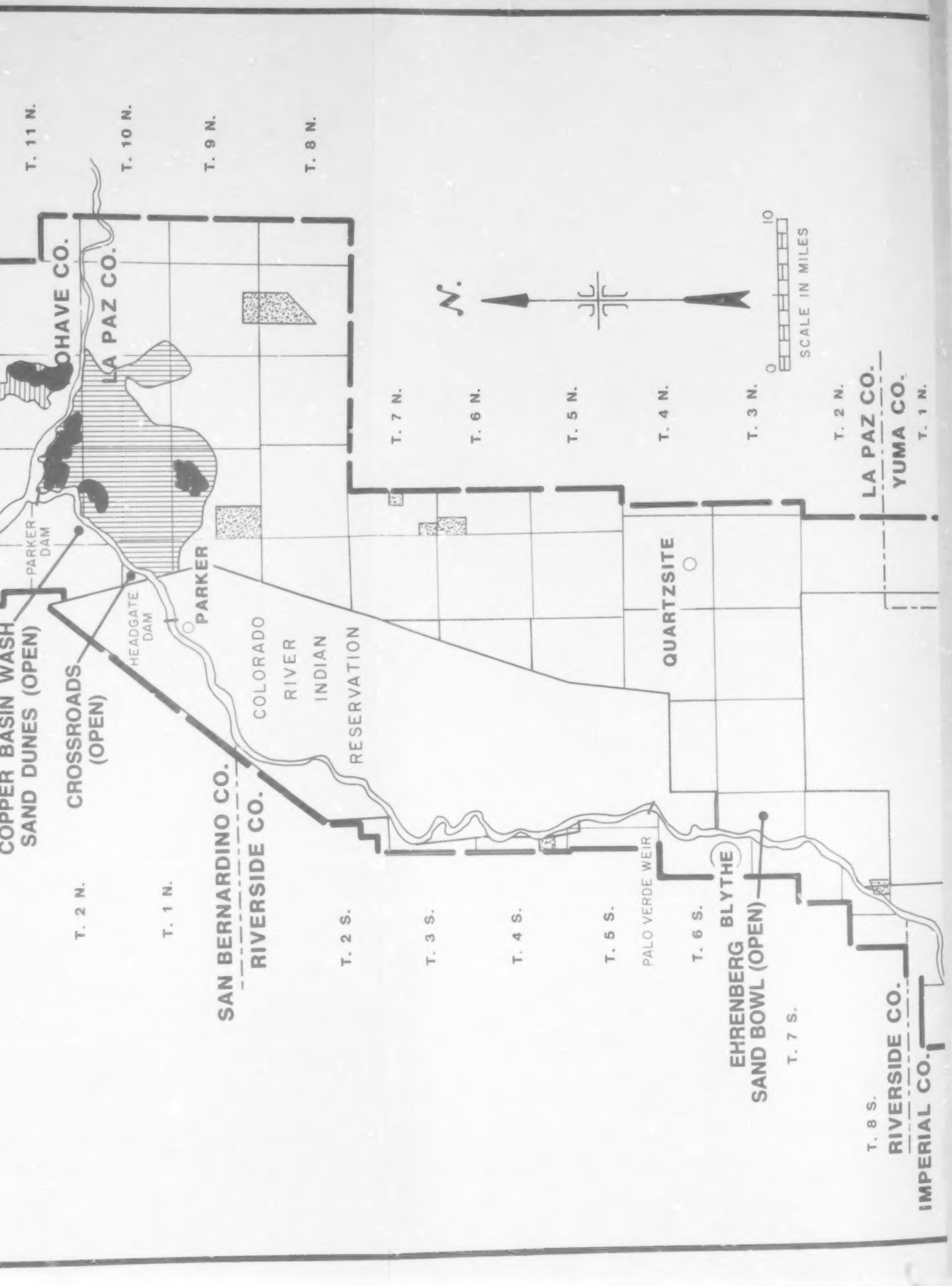
Yuma District
Resource Management Plan
1984

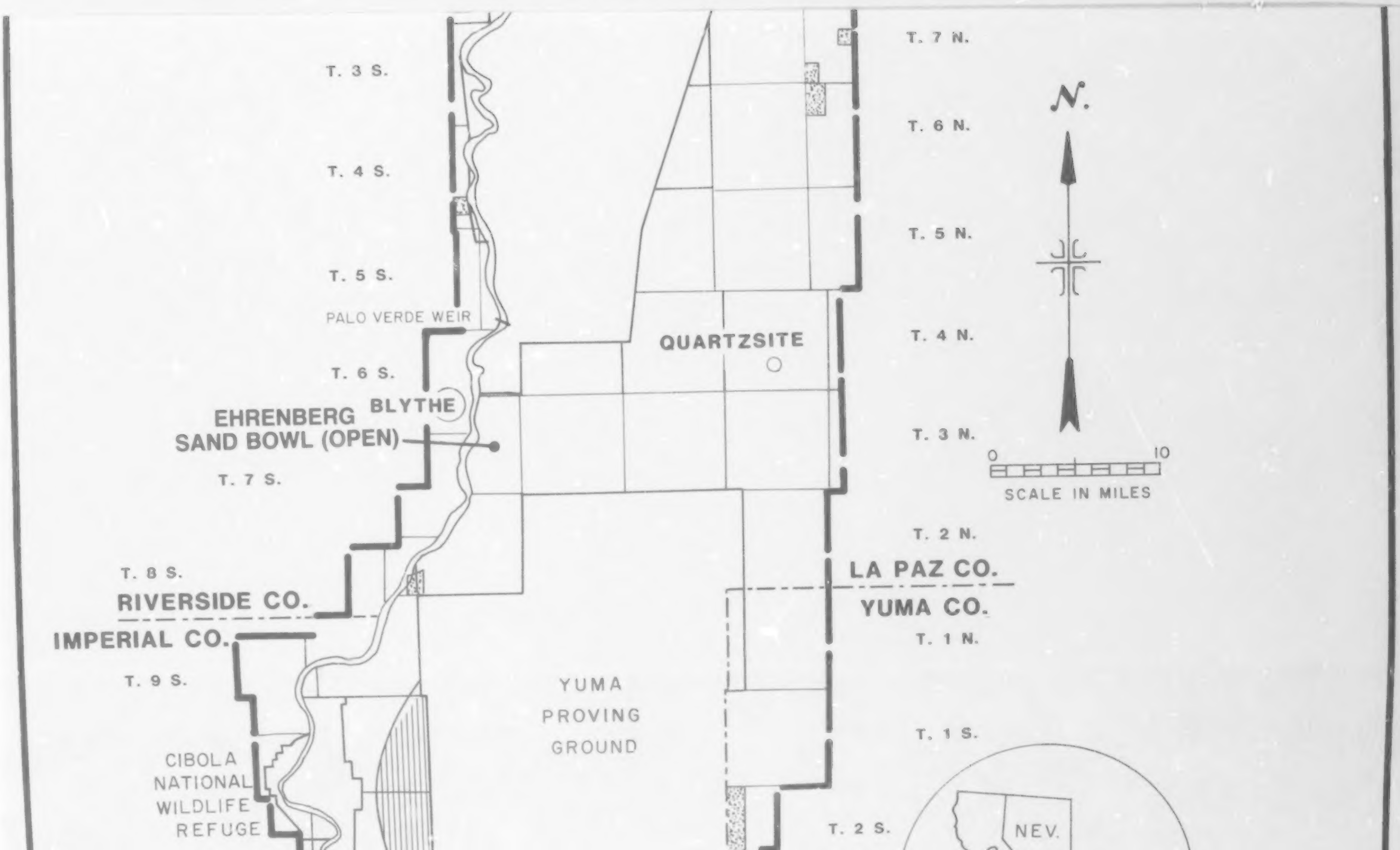
MAP 3

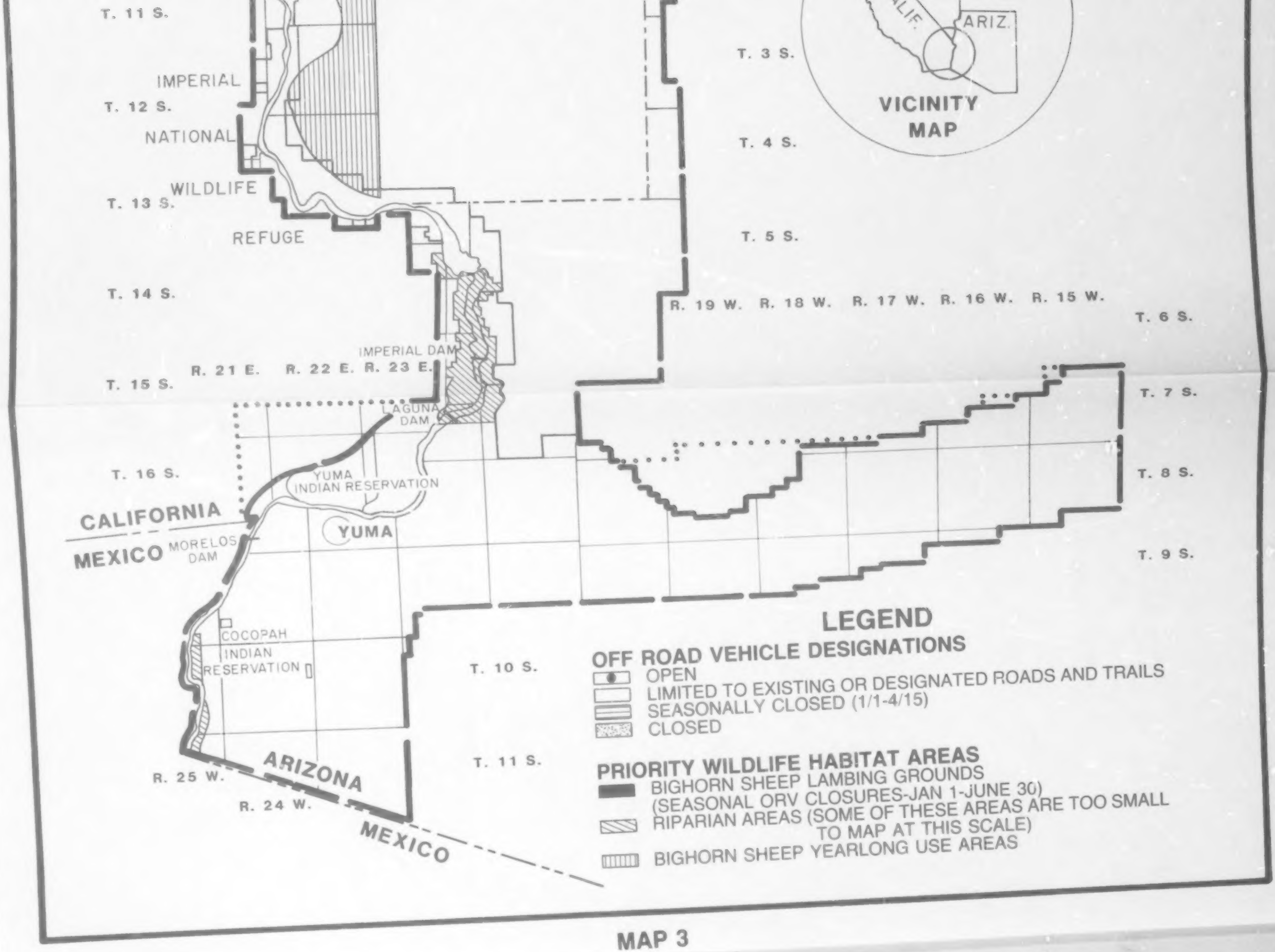
Off Road Vehicle Use and
Priority Wildlife Habitat Areas

ALTERNATIVE A

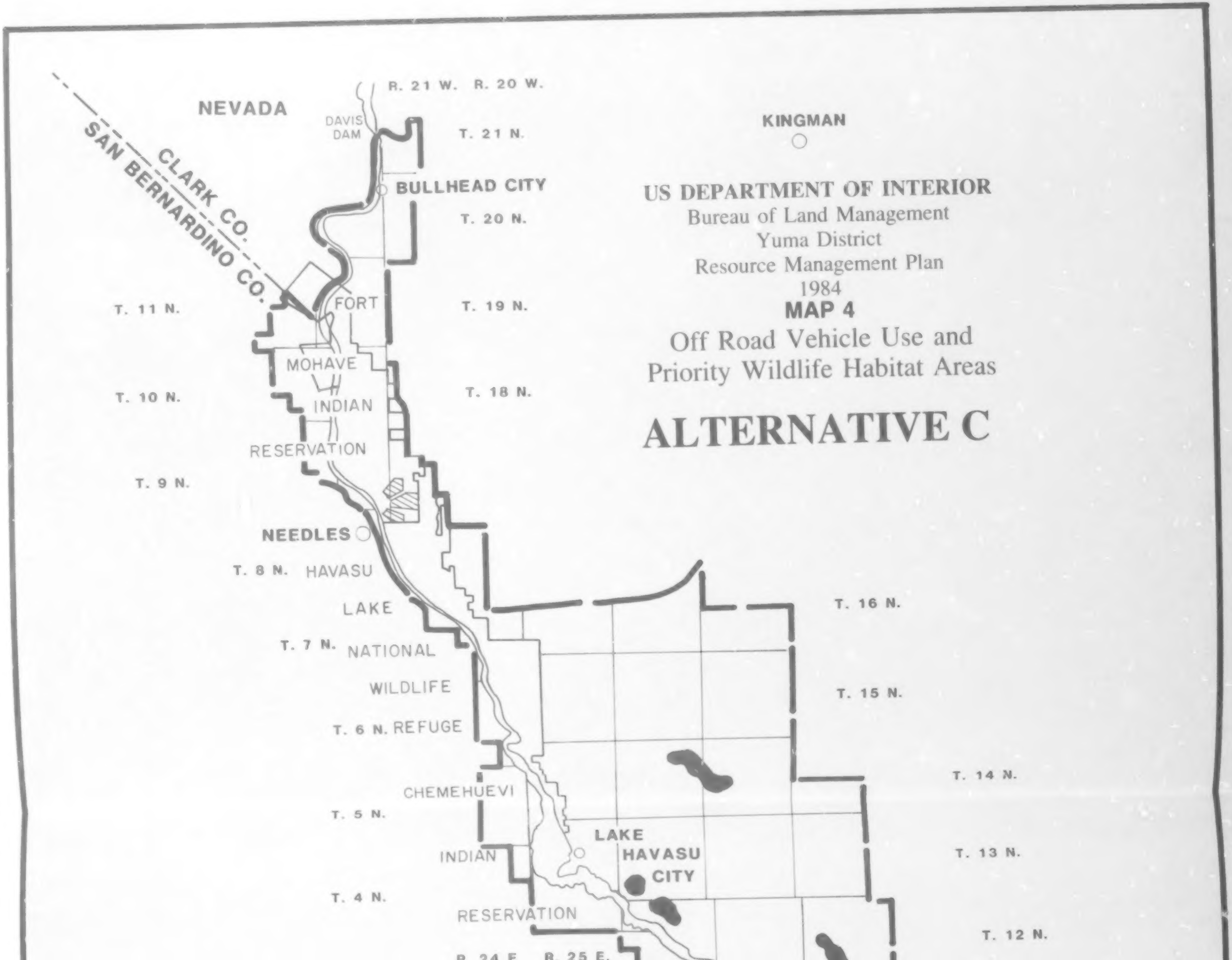
NEVADA
CLARK CO.
SAN BERNARDINO CO.
R. 21 W.
R. 20 W.
DAVIS DAM
T. 21 N.
KINGMAN
BULLHEAD CITY
T. 20 N.
T. 11 N.
FORT
MOHAVE
INDIAN
RESERVATION
T. 19 N.
T. 10 N.
T. 18 N.
T. 9 N.
NEEDLES
T. 8 N.
HAVASU
LAKE
T. 7 N.
NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
T. 6 N.
REFUGE
T. 16 N.
T. 15 N.
CHEMEHUEVI
T. 5 N.
INDIAN
RESERVATION
T. 14 N.
LAKE
HAVASU
CITY
T. 13 N.
T. 4 N.
R. 24 E.
R. 25 E.
T. 12 N.


COPPER BASIN WASH
SAND DUNES (OPEN)
CROSSROADS
(OPEN)
PARKER DAM
HEADGATE DAM
PARKER
COLORADO
RIVER
INDIAN
RESERVATION
QUARTZSITE
PALO VERDE WEIR
BLYTHE
EHRENBERG
SAND BOWL (OPEN)
SAN BERNARDINO CO.
RIVERSIDE CO.
RIVERSIDE CO.
IMPERIAL CO.
OHAVE CO.
LA PAZ CO.
LA PAZ CO.
YUMA CO.
T. 11 N.
T. 10 N.
T. 9 N.
T. 8 N.
T. 7 N.
T. 6 N.
T. 5 N.
T. 4 N.
T. 3 N.
T. 2 N.
T. 1 N.
T. 2 N.
T. 1 N.
T. 2 S.
T. 3 S.
T. 4 S.
T. 5 S.
T. 6 S.
T. 7 S.
T. 8 S.
N
0
10
SCALE IN MILES


T. 3 S.
T. 4 S.
T. 5 S.
PALO VERDE WEIR
T. 6 S.
BLYTHE
EHRENBERG
SAND BOWL (OPEN)
T. 7 S.
T. 8 S.
RIVERSIDE CO.
IMPERIAL CO.
T. 9 S.
CIBOLA
NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGE
QUARTZSITE
YUMA
PROVING
GROUND
T. 7 N.
T. 6 N.
T. 5 N.
T. 4 N.
T. 3 N.
T. 2 N.
LA PAZ CO.
YUMA CO.
T. 1 N.
T. 1 S.
T. 2 S.
N.
0
10
SCALE IN MILES
NEV.


T. 11 S.
IMPERIAL
T. 12 S.
NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
T. 13 S.
REFUGE
T. 14 S.
T. 15 S.
R. 21 E.
R. 22 E.
R. 23 E.
IMPERIAL DAM
LAGUNA DAM
T. 16 S.
YUMA INDIAN RESERVATION
YUMA
CALIFORNIA
MEXICO
MORELOS DAM
COCOPAH INDIAN RESERVATION
ARIZONA
MEXICO
R. 25 W.
R. 24 W.
T. 10 S.
T. 11 S.
T. 3 S.
T. 4 S.
T. 5 S.
T. 6 S.
T. 7 S.
T. 8 S.
T. 9 S.
R. 19 W.
R. 18 W.
R. 17 W.
R. 16 W.
R. 15 W.
CALIF.
ARIZ.
VICINITY MAP
LEGEND
OFF ROAD VEHICLE DESIGNATIONS
OPEN
LIMITED TO EXISTING OR DESIGNATED ROADS AND TRAILS
SEASONALLY CLOSED (1/1-4/15)
CLOSED
PRIORITY WILDLIFE HABITAT AREAS
BIGHORN SHEEP LAMBING GROUNDS (SEASONAL ORV CLOSURES-JAN 1-JUNE 30)
RIPARIAN AREAS (SOME OF THESE AREAS ARE TOO SMALL TO MAP AT THIS SCALE)
BIGHORN SHEEP YEARLONG USE AREAS

MAP 3



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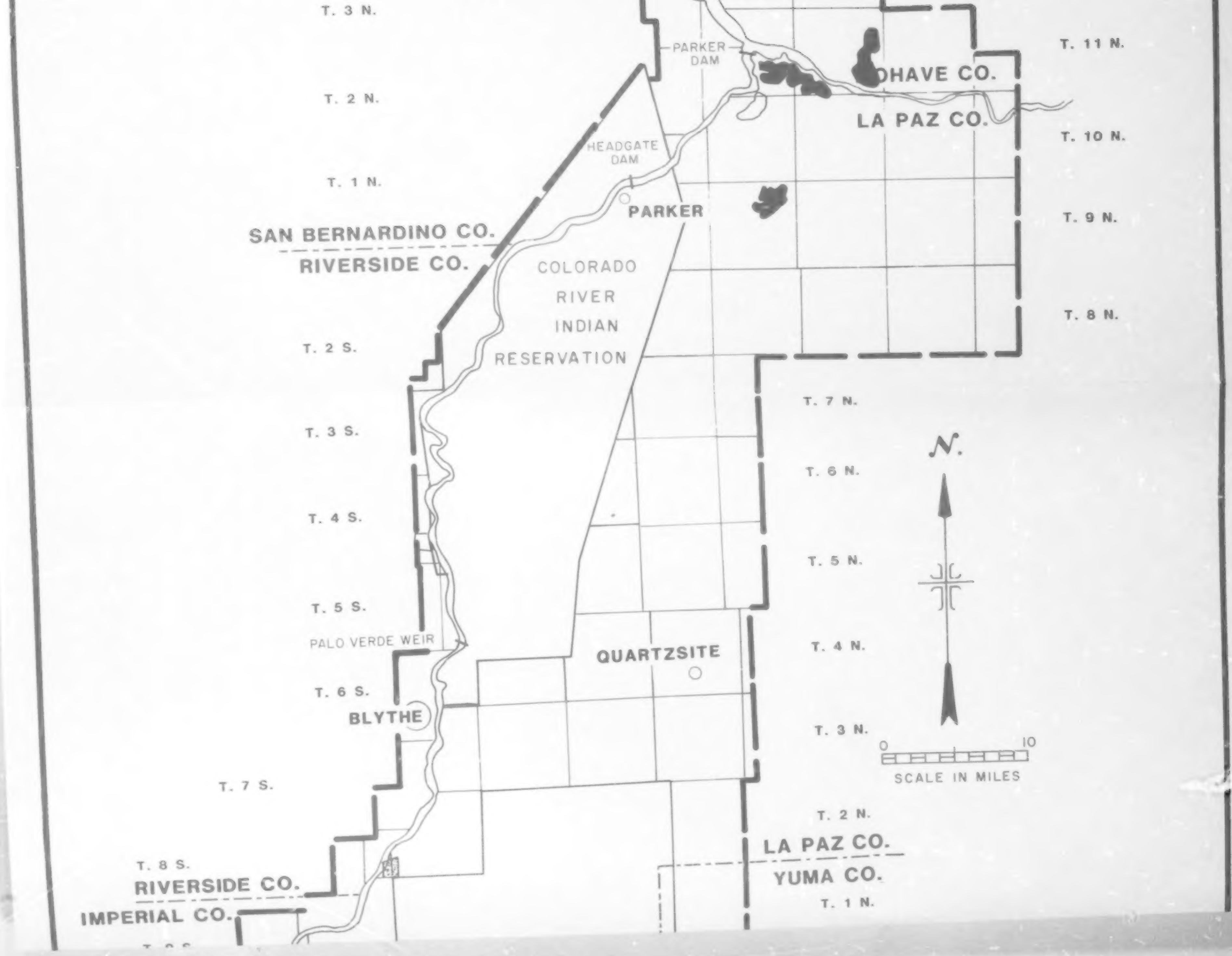
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District
Resource Management Plan
1984

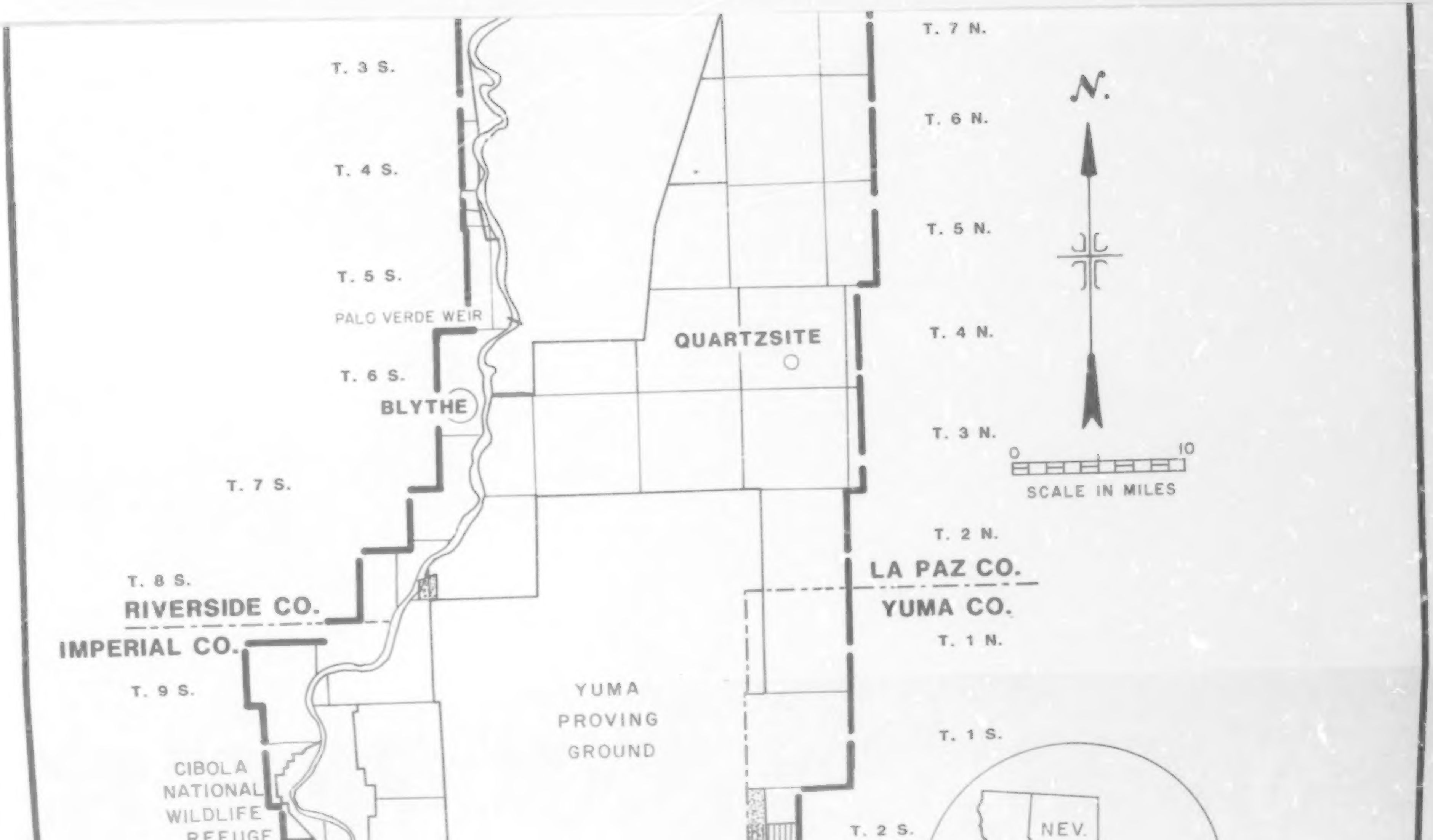
MAP 4

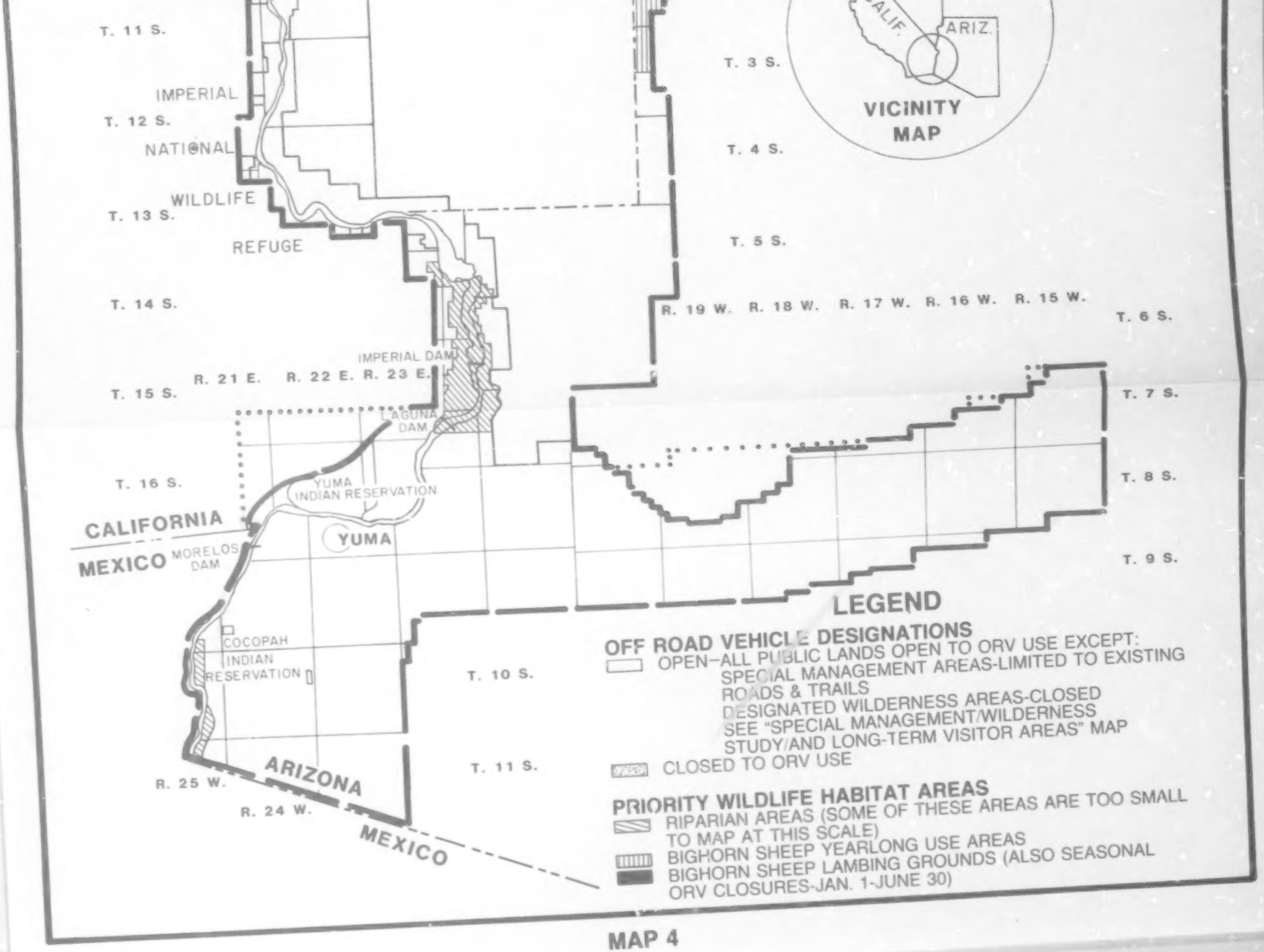
Off Road Vehicle Use and
Priority Wildlife Habitat Areas

ALTERNATIVE C

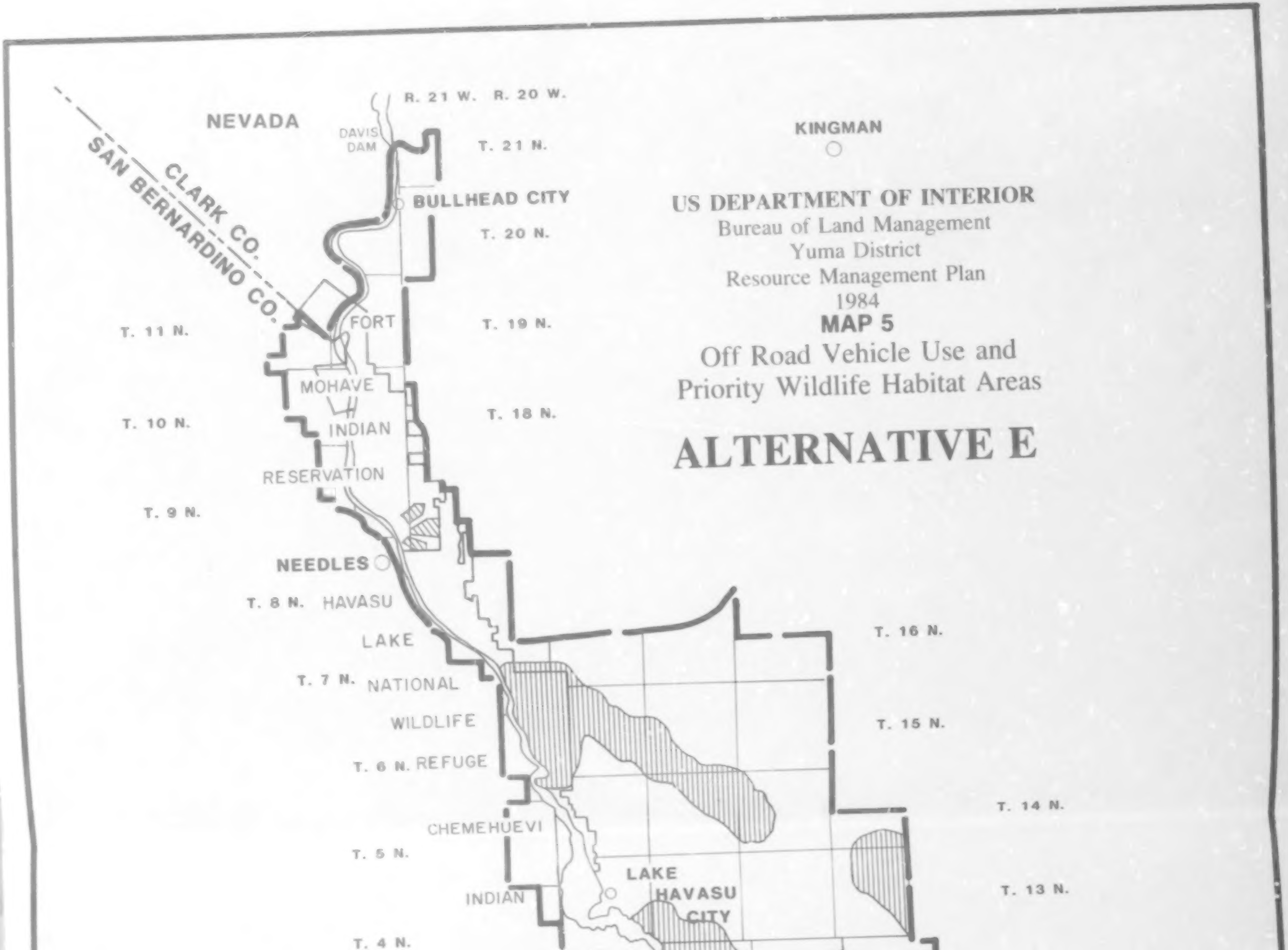
R. 21 W.
R. 20 W.
NEVADA
KINGMAN
DAVIS DAM
T. 21 N.
BULLHEAD CITY
T. 20 N.
CLARK CO.
SAN BERNARDINO CO.
T. 11 N.
FORT
T. 19 N.
MOHAVE
T. 10 N.
INDIAN
T. 18 N.
RESERVATION
T. 9 N.
NEEDLES
T. 8 N.
HAVASU
LAKE
T. 7 N.
NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
T. 6 N.
REFUGE
T. 16 N.
T. 15 N.
T. 14 N.
CHEMEHUEVI
T. 5 N.
LAKE HAVASU CITY
T. 13 N.
INDIAN
T. 4 N.
RESERVATION
T. 12 N.
R. 24 E.
R. 25 E.


T. 3 N.
T. 2 N.
T. 1 N.
SAN BERNARDINO CO.
RIVERSIDE CO.
T. 2 S.
T. 3 S.
T. 4 S.
T. 5 S.
PALO VERDE WEIR
T. 6 S.
BLYTHE
T. 7 S.
T. 8 S.
RIVERSIDE CO.
IMPERIAL CO.
PARKER DAM
HEADGATE DAM
PARKER
COLORADO RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION
QUARTZSITE
OHAVE CO.
LA PAZ CO.
T. 11 N.
T. 10 N.
T. 9 N.
T. 8 N.
T. 7 N.
T. 6 N.
T. 5 N.
T. 4 N.
T. 3 N.
T. 2 N.
LA PAZ CO.
YUMA CO.
T. 1 N.
N.
0
10
SCALE IN MILES


T. 7 N.
T. 6 N.
T. 5 N.
T. 4 N.
T. 3 N.
T. 2 N.
T. 1 N.
T. 1 S.
T. 2 S.
N.
0
10
SCALE IN MILES
LA PAZ CO.
YUMA CO.
QUARTZSITE
YUMA PROVING GROUND
T. 3 S.
T. 4 S.
T. 5 S.
PALO VERDE WEIR
T. 6 S.
BLYTHE
T. 7 S.
T. 8 S.
RIVERSIDE CO.
IMPERIAL CO.
T. 9 S.
CIBOLA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
NEV.


T. 11 S.
IMPERIAL
T. 12 S.
NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
T. 13 S.
REFUGE
T. 14 S.
IMPERIAL DAM
R. 21 E.
R. 22 E.
R. 23 E.
T. 15 S.
LAGUNA DAM
T. 16 S.
YUMA INDIAN RESERVATION
YUMA
CALIFORNIA
MEXICO
MORELOS DAM
COCOPAH INDIAN RESERVATION
R. 25 W.
R. 24 W.
ARIZONA
MEXICO
T. 10 S.
T. 11 S.
CALIF.
ARIZ.
VICINITY MAP
T. 3 S.
T. 4 S.
T. 5 S.
R. 19 W.
R. 18 W.
R. 17 W.
R. 16 W.
R. 15 W.
T. 6 S.
T. 7 S.
T. 8 S.
T. 9 S.
LEGEND
OFF ROAD VEHICLE DESIGNATIONS
OPEN–ALL PUBLIC LANDS OPEN TO ORV USE EXCEPT: SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS-LIMITED TO EXISTING ROADS & TRAILS DESIGNATED WILDERNESS AREAS-CLOSED SEE "SPECIAL MANAGEMENT/WILDERNESS STUDY/AND LONG-TERM VISITOR AREAS" MAP
CLOSED TO ORV USE
PRIORITY WILDLIFE HABITAT AREAS
RIPARIAN AREAS (SOME OF THESE AREAS ARE TOO SMALL TO MAP AT THIS SCALE)
BIGHORN SHEEP YEARLONG USE AREAS
BIGHORN SHEEP LAMBING GROUNDS (ALSO SEASONAL ORV CLOSURES-JAN. 1-JUNE 30)

MAP 4



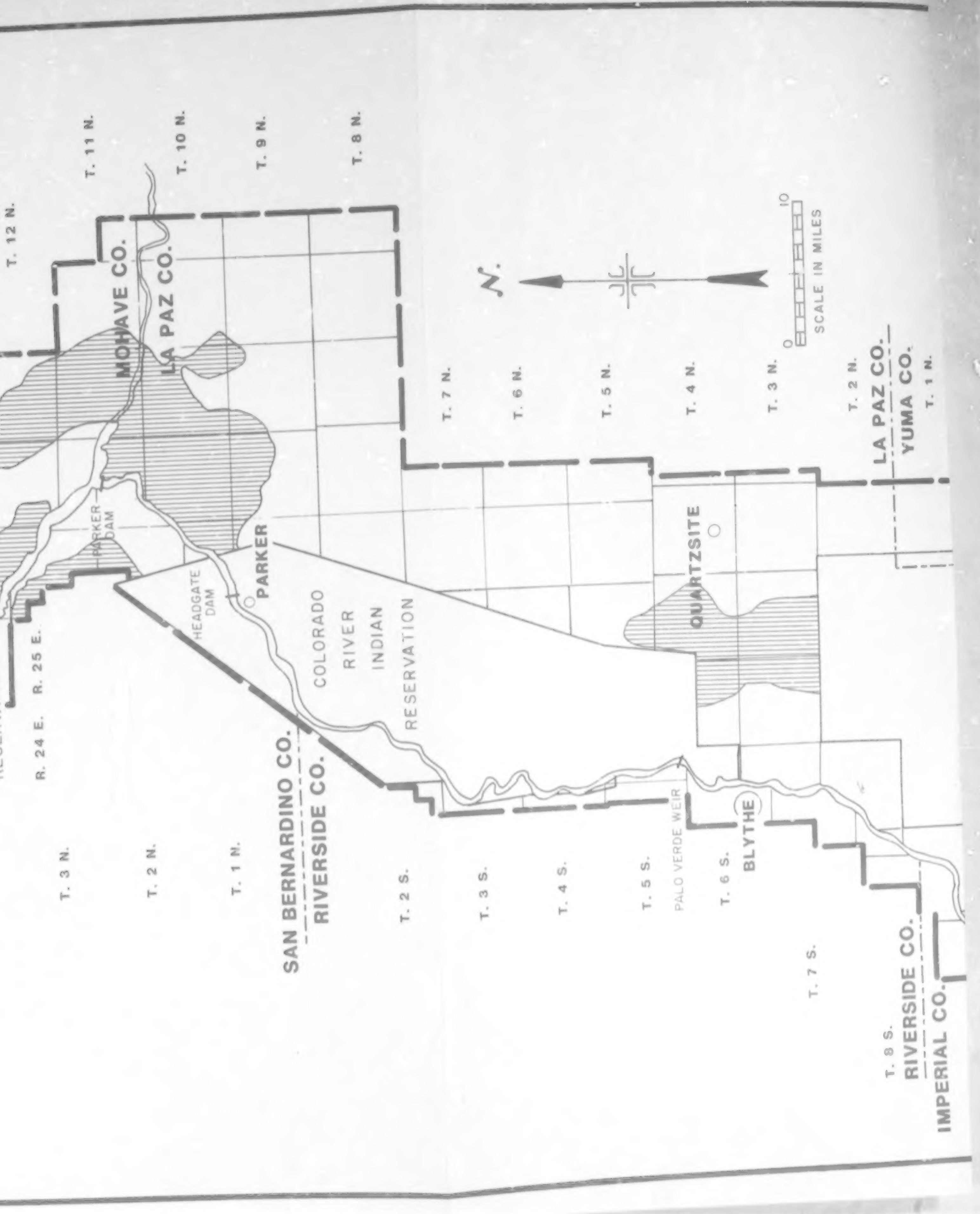
US DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District
Resource Management Plan
1984

MAP 5

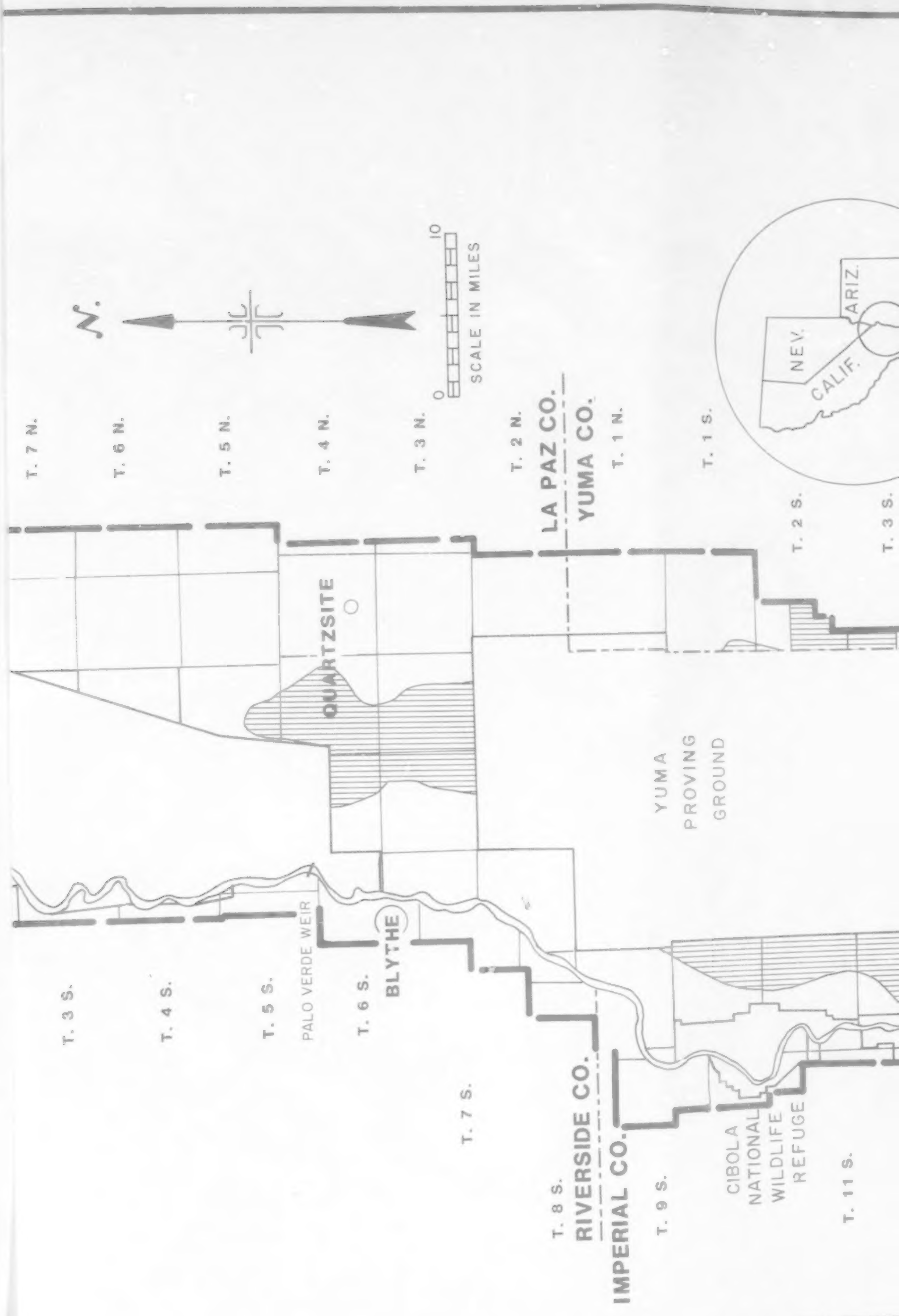
Off Road Vehicle Use and
Priority Wildlife Habitat Areas

ALTERNATIVE E

R. 21 W.
R. 20 W.
NEVADA
DAVIS DAM
KINGMAN
T. 21 N.
CLARK CO.
SAN BERNARDINO CO.
BULLHEAD CITY
T. 20 N.
FORT
T. 19 N.
T. 11 N.
MOHAVE
T. 10 N.
INDIAN
T. 18 N.
RESERVATION
T. 9 N.
NEEDLES
T. 8 N.
HAVASU
LAKE
T. 16 N.
T. 7 N.
NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
T. 15 N.
T. 6 N.
REFUGE
T. 14 N.
CHEMEHUEVI
T. 5 N.
LAKE
HAVASU
CITY
T. 13 N.
INDIAN
T. 4 N.



MOHAVE CO.
LA PAZ CO.
PARKER DAM
HEADGATE DAM
PARKER
COLORADO RIVER INDIAN RESERVATION
QUARTZSITE
PALO VERDE WEIR
BLYTHE
SAN BERNARDINO CO.
RIVERSIDE CO.
RIVERSIDE CO.
IMPERIAL CO.
LA PAZ CO.
YUMA CO.
N.
0
10
SCALE IN MILES
R. 24 E.
R. 25 E.
T. 12 N.
T. 11 N.
T. 10 N.
T. 9 N.
T. 8 N.
T. 7 N.
T. 6 N.
T. 5 N.
T. 4 N.
T. 3 N.
T. 2 N.
T. 1 N.
T. 3 N.
T. 2 N.
T. 1 N.
T. 2 S.
T. 3 S.
T. 4 S.
T. 5 S.
T. 6 S.
T. 7 S.
T. 8 S.


N.
0
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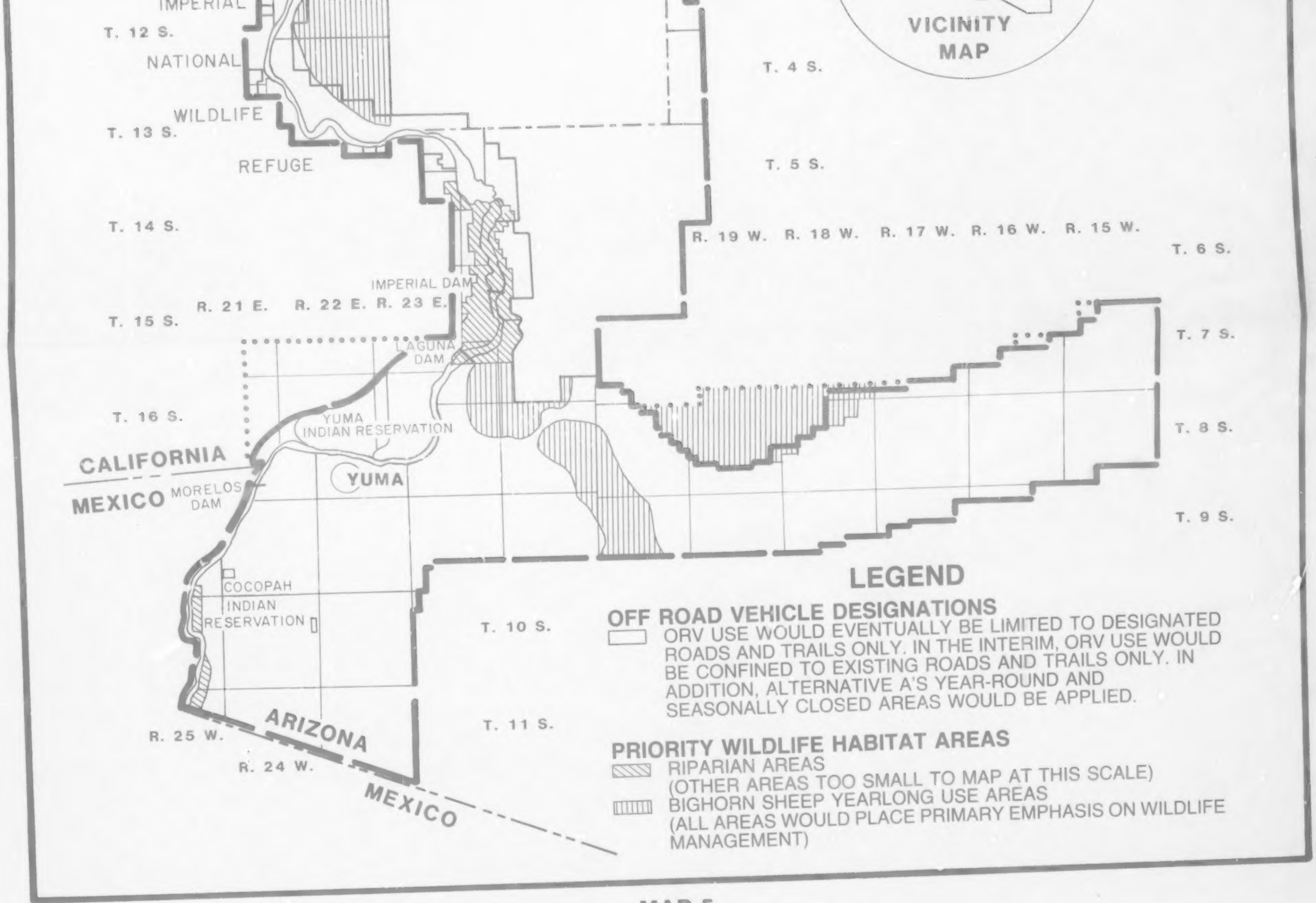
SCALE IN MILES
NEV.
CALIF.
ARIZ.
T. 7 N.
T. 6 N.
T. 5 N.
T. 4 N.
T. 3 N.
T. 2 N.
LA PAZ CO.
YUMA CO.
T. 1 N.
T. 1 S.
T. 2 S.
T. 3 S.
QUARTZSITE
YUMA PROVING GROUND
T. 3 S.
T. 4 S.
T. 5 S.
PALO VERDE WEIR
T. 6 S.
BLYTHE
T. 7 S.
T. 8 S.
RIVERSIDE CO.
IMPERIAL CO.
T. 9 S.
CIBOLA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
T. 11 S.


IMPERIAL
NATIONAL
WILDLIFE
REFUGE
VICINITY MAP
T. 4 S.
T. 5 S.
T. 6 S.
T. 7 S.
T. 8 S.
T. 9 S.
T. 10 S.
T. 11 S.
T. 12 S.
T. 13 S.
T. 14 S.
T. 15 S.
T. 16 S.
R. 19 W.
R. 18 W.
R. 17 W.
R. 16 W.
R. 15 W.
R. 21 E.
R. 22 E.
R. 23 E.
R. 25 W.
R. 24 W.
IMPERIAL DAM
LAGUNA DAM
YUMA INDIAN RESERVATION
YUMA
CALIFORNIA
MEXICO
MORELOS DAM
COCOPAH INDIAN RESERVATION
ARIZONA
MEXICO
LEGEND
OFF ROAD VEHICLE DESIGNATIONS
ORV USE WOULD EVENTUALLY BE LIMITED TO DESIGNATED ROADS AND TRAILS ONLY. IN THE INTERIM, ORV USE WOULD BE CONFINED TO EXISTING ROADS AND TRAILS ONLY. IN ADDITION, ALTERNATIVE A'S YEAR-ROUND AND SEASONALLY CLOSED AREAS WOULD BE APPLIED.
PRIORITY WILDLIFE HABITAT AREAS
RIPARIAN AREAS (OTHER AREAS TOO SMALL TO MAP AT THIS SCALE)
BIGHORN SHEEP YEARLONG USE AREAS
(ALL AREAS WOULD PLACE PRIMARY EMPHASIS ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT)

MAP 5

Int

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Aub
Buck
Gila
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CHAPTER 3

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

oduction

chapter describes the environmental components that
d affect and be affected by the alternatives if im-
ented. The purpose of the chapter is to serve as a
ne for identifying and evaluating the impacts of the
ternatives. These impacts are described in Chapter 4.
of the information contained in this chapter is
cted from the Yuma District Management Situation
sis (MSA) which is available for review at the Yuma
ct and Havasu Resource Area offices.

sical Features

IATE

e Yuma District has hot summers, mild winters, low
ll, high evaporation rates and low humidity. Ap-
mately 110 days per year have average temperatures
100°F, the daily average for July is 107°F. In
ry, the average daily temperature is 67°F. The
ge annual precipitation in the Yuma District is 3.5
with rainfall intensities generally low during winter
pring and high during summer and fall. Approx-
y 60% of the precipitation results from winter
s and the remainder from summer cloudbursts. Rela-
umidity ranges from 10–40% in the summer and
% during the winter months. Wind speeds in the
t average approximately 8 mph. Prevailing wind
on is generally from the south during the spring and
er and from the north during the fall and winter.

OGRAPHY

topography of the Yuma District is characterized by
l mountain ranges, sloping plains and broad valleys.
range from 1–20% on valley floors to sheer bluffs
mountains. Elevations range from 100 feet above sea
long the Mexican border to 5,184 atop Crossman
Mountain ranges in the Yuma District include the
y Hills, the Mohave, Bill Williams, Whipple,
kin, Trigo, Middle, Chocolate, Laguna, Muggins,
Black, Big Maria and Dome Rock. Map 6 shows the
n of these mountain ranges.

There are two broad desert plains in the Yuma District: a) the long and narrow La Posa Plain, extending south from the Buckskin Mountains to the Castle Dome Mountains and b) Castle Dome Plain, extending south from the Middle and Castle Dome Mountain ranges.

WATER

The Yuma District lies entirely within the Lower Colorado sub-basin of the Colorado Hydrologic Region.

The Colorado River flows through the entire north-south length of the Yuma District. The Bureau of Reclamation (BR) regulates water flows on the river through dams, associated reservoirs and backwater areas at various points along its length. Water quality of the Colorado River is naturally high in total dissolved solids but shows little signs of degradation related to domestic, municipal or industrial wastes. The water quality on the Lower Colorado River is monitored by the U.S. Geological Survey, Soil Conservation Service and Bureau of Reclamation.

The Bill Williams River flows through the Havasu Resource Area and enters the Colorado River just north of Parker. This is the same location where the Central Arizona Project (CAP) is removing water from the Colorado River for use in Central Arizona. The Gila River, which flows through the Yuma Resource Area, enters the Colorado River just east of Yuma. Due to upstream impoundments and water usage, the Bill Williams and Gila Rivers flow only intermittently.

Other natural surface waters in the district include a small number of perennial and intermittent springs and streams. These are usually in isolated pockets in remote mountainous areas. BLM has also developed wells and surface collection tanks for livestock and wildlife use.

AIR QUALITY

Generally the Yuma District meets and exceeds the National Ambient Air Quality standards. The present ambient air quality is good; however, air quality data for the district are very limited. There are only two air quality monitoring sites — both in downtown Yuma — and air quality information for the district is based mainly on local observations.

SOILS

Soils in the Yuma District are on floodplains, alluvial terraces and mountains. They are usually light-colored, sandy-textured, and have hyperthermic (hot) soil temperature regime and aridic (dry) soil moisture regime.

The soils on the floodplains of perennial streams are dominantly stratified sands, silts and clays. The alluvium represents several stages of deposition under various rainfall and flooding intensities. The dominant use of these areas is agriculture. The ephemeral washes consist of stratified sands and gravels and are subject to flooding from high intensity summer and fall rainstorms. These dry washes are used mainly for livestock grazing and wildlife habitat.

There are several kinds of alluvial terraces, all of which are dissected by actively cutting ephemeral washes. The younger terrace soils are near the valley bottom. They lack soil development and consist dominantly of sandy material. The soils increase in age as they progress upslope toward the mountain front. Soil development increases from salt accumulation to development of clay-enriched soil horizons (see *Glossary*) to the ultimate development of calcium and silica cemented hardpans. Many of these alluvial terraces have been masked by more recent deposits of sand. Before the Colorado River was regulated by dams, flooding was a frequent phenomenon which exposed fresh alluvium to the forces of wind after the waters receded. Many of these active sand dune areas are now being stabilized with perennial grasses and provide some of the most productive range and wildlife forage on the Yuma District. These alluvial terrace areas are currently used for wildlife habitat and livestock grazing.

The mountain areas are generally very steep and can consist of up to 90% rock outcrop: granite, gneiss, schist, andesite, rhyolite and basalt. The soils are coarse textured and are dominated by surface stones, cobbles or gravels. Soil depths vary from a few inches to a few feet. The current uses of these mountain areas are recreation, wildlife and mineral exploration.

Erosion

The hot, dry climate of the Yuma District causes low soil productivity outside of perennial stream systems. Low vegetative cover (generally less than 15%) combined with high intensity summer and fall rainstorms cause soil movement to be high under natural conditions. The amount of sediment moved off the mountains and alluvial terrace areas is directly related to rainfall intensity and generally has little to do with man's activities, except on the floodplains. The erosion rate in most of the Yuma District is close to natural conditions.

Lands and Land Ownership

There are about 1.2 million acres of federally-owned lands under BLM administration in the Yuma District. Approximately 23% or **282,000** acres of these lands are U.S. Bureau of Reclamation withdrawn lands administered by BLM. The public lands in Yuma District are distributed through Riverside, San Bernardino and Imperial Counties in California, and Yuma, La Paz and Mohave Counties in Arizona. Map 6 shows land status or ownership for all lands in Yuma District.

The Bureau of Reclamation plans to relinquish withdrawals on approximately 121,000 acres of the 282,000 acres that are currently under withdrawal. Following completion of a Public Land Order revoking these withdrawals, these lands would be entirely under BLM jurisdiction.

BLM also manages federally-owned mineral estate (see *Glossary*) on approximately 83% of the 1.2 million acres it administers. In addition, about 3,000 acres of federal mineral estate under non-federal surface ownership are administered by BLM.

LAND OWNERSHIP ADJUSTMENT

Approximately **57,810** acres or **5%** of public lands in the district have been identified for potential disposal or transfer out of federal ownership (see Map 9). These lands were identified using the following three criteria established in FLPMA: a) small isolated tracts which are difficult or uneconomic to manage, b) parcels no longer needed for the purpose for which they were acquired and c) tracts which would serve important public objectives when transferred out of federal ownership.

In addition to potential disposal lands, **50,120** acres of non-federal lands have been identified for potential acquisition. All these land acquisition tracts have potential to enhance BLM's ability to manage the use of public lands for grazing, **natural values** or wildlife habitat. These lands were identified using the following criteria: a) acquisition would improve manageability of existing public land and uses by eliminating non-federal inholdings with potential for conflicting uses and b) acquisition would create more manageable land ownership patterns thereby decreasing administrative costs of managing these lands.

AGRICULTURAL PERMITS AND LEASES

Approximately **4,205** acres of BLM-administered lands in Yuma District are currently used for agricultural purposes under a special agricultural permit and lease program (see *Appendix D*). These agricultural lands are all along the Colorado River, both in Arizona and California; there are **31** annual permits totaling **1,987** acres and **five** leases totaling **2,218** acres. In addition, four public land parcels totaling **129** acres are being used for agricultural purposes without lease or permit authorization. One of the **31** permits (75 acres) and **one** of the lease parcels (**67** acres) currently used for agriculture do not have legal water sources for irrigation. Although the operators are presently pumping water directly from the Colorado River or wells using Colorado River groundwater, this water use will be discontinued in 1985 when the Central Arizona Project begins operation.

Cultural Resources

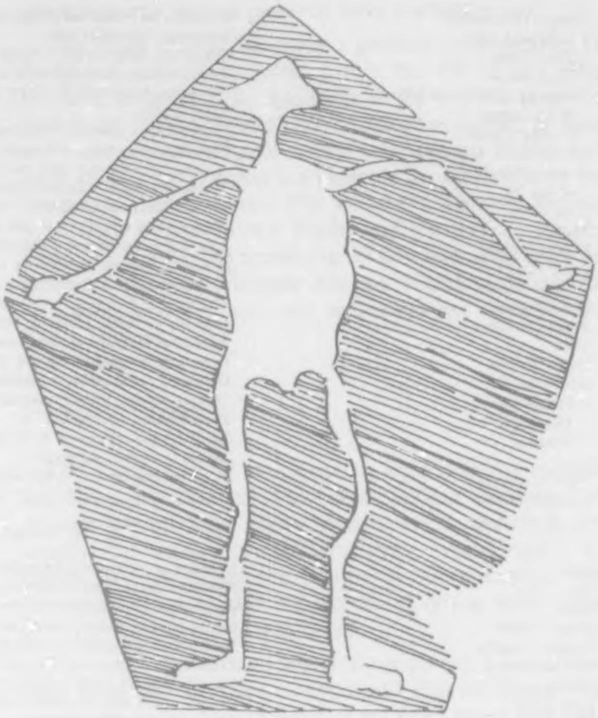
EXISTING INFORMATION

Cultural resource data on file at the Yuma District Office include the following three categories:

- District site report files — field recorded information on site location, type and condition at time of recordation
- Cultural resource reports from past district projects and permit applications
- A Class I inventory report covering primarily Yuma County, entitled *Hohokam and Patayan: Prehistory of Southwestern Arizona*

As of the end of 1983, about 24,000 acres, or 2% of the district's acres, had been inventoried at a Class III level, while an additional 17,500 acres, or 1% of the district, had been inventoried at a Class II (sample) level (see *Glossary* for an explanation of the classes). In total, about 41,500 acres have received some formal inventory work. Currently a total of **1,299** recorded sites are on file at the Yuma BLM office (this includes **423** sites recorded on non-BLM lands).

More information about the above inventories can be obtained upon request from the BLM Yuma District Office. However, sensitive site-specific information on archaeological resources is classified and excluded from the *Freedom of Information Act*, and will be made available only to qualified persons with legitimate research interests. For this reason, this narrative does not discuss precise site locations, nor particulars of specific sites.



CULTURAL RESOURCE SITE TYPES

Cultural resources within the Yuma District generally can be divided into three categories including: a) prehistoric archaeological, b) historic archaeological and c) traditional cultural/religious areas. Any location with physical remains or evidence of activity by aboriginal peoples prior to A.D. 1850 is considered a prehistoric archaeological site; those with evidence of Euro-Asian peoples from the Spanish in 1540 to modern times are historic. Traditional cultural or religious sites are generally Native American in origin, range in age from prehistoric to modern and are important to the Native American sociocultural and religious system. Many Native American sacred sites have no physical remains, while others are essentially archaeological sites with physical remains. Table 3-1 lists site types, with abbreviated descriptions, according to the above three categories.

Of the above sites many are fairly common in the district while others are rare. Generally the more common site types include "sleeping circles," quarry/lithic sources, lithic scatters, ceramic scatters, circular rock alignments, trails, trail camps and mines. Site types which are relatively

Table 3-1: CULTURAL RESOURCE SITE TYPES IN THE YUMA DISTRICT
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

	A. Prehistoric Archaeological Sites
Villages (Rancherias)	Usually a permanent habitation area for several families over an extended period of time
Temporary Camps	Temporary habitation area
Farm Camp	Temporary camp occupied during planting or harvesting time. Usually found along the Colorado River
Trail Camps	Very temporary camps used for a night or two while migrating to other areas
Hunting and Gathering Camp	Temporary camp used for a few weeks as a base camp for hunting and gathering activities
Rock shelters	Same as above
"Sleeping Circles"	Cleared and/or smoothed depression areas on desert pavement terraces; usually used for sleeping
Circular Rock Alignments	Usually a cleared area with rocks around the edge. Rocks thought to have served as anchors for temporary brush huts
Quarry/Lithic Source	A source area for raw lithic materials used for tool manufacture, or for minerals used for paints
Roasting Pit	A concentration of thermally affected rocks usually with ash in the soil (occasionally these will be a cremation site)
Rock Cairn	A trail marker, monument or "shrine" resulting from stones heaped into a pile
Midden	A refuse area usually associated with permanent or semi-permanent annually occupied villages or camps
Milling Station	A food preparation area where one or more stones (metates, mortars, or pestles) are present
Lithic Scatter	A location used to manufacture a lithic tool, as evident by a scatter of lithic flakes or cores
Ceramic Scatter	A location with scattered broken pottery sherds, often the result of the breakage of a single vessel
Hunting Blind	A semi-walled locality, usually on hilly or mountain slopes, used to hunt primarily bighorn sheep
Burial/Cremation	Evidence of human burial or cremation. The latter usually contain ash and pieces of human bone
Trails	Aboriginal footpaths used to travel from area to area
Dance Patterns	Paths or other images resulting from ceremonial dance activities on desert pavement surfaces
Aboriginal Art	Geometric, zoomorphic or anthropomorphic design created by aboriginal peoples
Petroglyphs	Designs pecked, rubbed or scratched on a rock
Pictographs	Designs painted on rock
Intaglios	Large designs created on desert pavement by removal of surface gravel; images range from human and animal to geometric pattern (a form of geoglyph)
Rock Alignments	Large designs created by the alignment of rock and gravel
Isolated Artifacts	Artifacts (pottery sherds, lithic tools, etc.) found without associaton to an identifiable site
	B. Historic Archaeological Sites
Mine	Evidence of ore removal for mineral extraction, i.e., pits, holes, shafts, adits, tailings, etc.
Mill	Structures (or remains of) associated with removal of minerals from ore
Town	Aggregation of structures and other physical remains of a multifamily occupation in historic periods
Home or Cabin	Single structure and associated physical remains of a single person or family occupancy
Historic Campsite	Evidence of temporary occupation by one or more families. Usually associated with temporary mining or river-related activities
Road or Trail	Evidence of historic use as a wagon or pack train route
Military	Site of a military camp or other activity
Trash Dump	Historic refuse area associated with any of the above
Grave	One or more historic burials
	C. Traditional Cultural/Religious Sites
Ceremonial Sites	Prehistoric or historic area of sacred character. Physical evidences of activities usually present, i.e., dance patterns, vision quest circles, intaglios, rock cairns, etc.
Sacred Areas	Prehistoric or historic area of sacred character. Evidences of physical activities not always present, i.e., sacred mountain top, power place or vision quest places, etc.
Traditional Use Areas	Areas of traditional hunting, gathering, fishing or travel
Burial or Cremation Site	Area of historic cremation or burial of the dead
Prehistoric Archaeological Sites	Some areas where prehistoric peoples lived or died are considered areas of spiritual residence of these peoples

SOURCE: BLM, Yuma District Office 1984

rare include ceremonial sites, roasting pits, hunting blinds, pictographs, cremation sites and historic wagon roads. All other types of cultural resources range somewhere between common and rare.

One dimension of cultural resource sites or site characteristics, common in most other parts of the world but clearly lacking in the district, is a site with stratified layers built up over time. Nearly all cultural remains in the Yuma District are open terrace sites, including all cultural period artifacts and features mingled together on the surface.

Nearly all river-bottom village sites have been washed away by repeated heavy flooding or are very deeply buried. Even rock shelter and core deposits are uncommon. Consequently, there are major gaps in the cultural record of the Colorado and Gila Rivers because of no artifact remains which yield good control data for establishing chronological age.

CULTURAL RESOURCE SENSITIVE AREAS

District archaeological site records and general cultural resource knowledge have been used to map areas with known cultural resource sensitivity. The sensitivity ratings are based on the known distribution of sites and site values established by resources evaluation as discussed in *Appendix J.* Areas rated as having high cultural resource sensitivity have a high density of significant cultural resources present and are usually located on the river terraces adjacent to the two major rivers. Areas of moderate sensitivity are commonly located where trails and temporary camps were used in traditional hunting and gathering areas. Areas of low sensitivity are the interior deserts where little natural resource was available for use by aboriginal peoples. Areas of low sensitivity are not discussed in Chapter 4 due to lack of significant resources to be impacted by the various alternatives.

Currently, cultural resource site density ranges from a high of approximately one site per acre on the heavily used river terraces to less than one site per 640-acre section for interior deserts. Areas such as Cactus Plain contain even fewer sites. Based on existing inventory records an average of .04 sites per acre were recorded for all Class III inventoried acres. Projected over the district this figure suggests that about 49,000 sites exist within the Yuma District. Approximately 57,000 acres (5% of the district) has been designated as having high or moderate cultural resource sensitivity.

EVALUATION OF CULTURAL RESOURCES

The BLM evaluates cultural resources according to their current and potential uses. Cultural resources can be allocated to one or more of the following five use categories:

1) Public use
2) Socio-cultural use
3) Management use
4) Current and potential scientific use
5) Conservation for future use

These use categories are defined in the *Glossary* and *Appendix J.*

Uses of cultural resources within the Yuma District by the public refer to educational, recreational and aesthetic values associated with intaglio and petroglyph sites. BLM's major interpretive exhibit in Yuma District is the Blythe Intaglio Complex. Socio-cultural values can be identified on the basis of perceptions of various cultural groups who reside within the district. Nearly all district sites or areas contain some scientific information; however, those sites or areas which have the potential to answer the major regional research questions (as established in the Class I overview) are considered relatively more important. A site which has been partially destroyed usually has relatively less value than a site where integrity or condition are intact.

Cultural resources within the Yuma District range from pristine condition for remote sites to highly impacted in areas of heavy off-road vehicle use. The primary areas of heavy impact to cultural resources are near river resort facilities on the Colorado River. ORV traffic is extremely disruptive to the desert pavement terraces. Future cultural resource deterioration will continue to be dominated by ORV traffic; other forms of deterioration are generally insignificant.

Some sites, such as the intaglios of the district, are rare on a national level and hold high public value. Other sites are considered excellent representative examples of a particular site type. Some sites or areas contain special sacred values to Native Americans. Where these types of scarce resources are known, the BLM segregates the sites from other resource uses to preserve them for future use.

The Yuma District has made a preliminary evaluation of all known cultural resources within the district according to the criteria listed in *Appendix J.* Of the 876 recorded sites in the Yuma District and 57,000 acres known to have moderate to high cultural resource sensitivity, 33 sites and areas (about 6,800 acres) are valuable for conservation for future use. Three of these sites are on the *National Register of Historic Places* (Blythe, Ripley and Rattlesnake Intaglio Complexes) while the remaining 30 sites and areas are considered worthy of *National Register* eligibility determination evaluations. These sites and areas are listed in the Yuma District Office.

Floodplains

The Yuma District is subject to high intensity summer and fall rainstorms which can lead to flash flooding. The greatest hazard from these thunderstorms occurs in the usually dry washes, particularly those where man's activities have modified the natural drainage system. The Colorado River is also subject to flooding from rapid snowmelt in the upper watershed.

The major flood control structures on the Lower Colorado River are the Glen Canyon and Hoover Dams. The two major water storage facilities are Lake Mead and Lake Powell. Water storage levels in these reservoirs are regulated in association with the small reservoirs to provide flood protection, year-round water use and hydro-electric power. In combination with these storage facilities, the Bureau of Reclamation and Corps of Engineers have developed extensive levee systems along many parts of the river to ensure safe passage of water during periods of high flow. For more detailed information on the water storage facilities and the levee design, refer to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' July 1982 Final Report on Hoover Dam - Flood Control Regulation.

The public lands administered by BLM along the Lower Colorado River are used for recreation, wildlife habitat and agriculture. The agricultural use of the floodplain is described under the land disposal and acquisition section, the wildlife use in the floodplain is described under the riparian subsection of the wildlife section, and the recreation use on the floodplain is described under the recreation section of this chapter. Alternatives for managing these uses on the floodplain are described in Chapter 2 under the respective issues. *Appendix C* summarizes BLM's floodplain management policies and the proposed uses being considered under each alternative.

Table C-1 (*Appendix C*) lists developed facilities that are on BLM-administered lands in the Colorado River floodplain. BLM's present direction concerning management of development in the floodplain is that mobile homes and permanent buildings are not compatible uses of the Colorado River floodplain, while campsites, RV sites and other outdoor recreational facilities can be compatible provided that mitigation measures are used when developing the facilities (see 1983 FEMA Report on Flood Hazard for Concessions).

In the spring of 1983 record snow packs in the Upper Colorado River watershed melted rapidly, causing runoff rates to double the amount forecast. This situation, combined with relatively full reservoirs, caused BR's water releases to reach their maximum target levels. The BR has not had to regulate reservoir releases much higher than the normal demands for hydro-electric power or irrigation water supply for more than two decades. This situation has relaxed public and private attitudes along the river as developments have slowly encroached onto the base floodplain and the high flow operation zones. Damage from the summer 1983 releases was heavy in some areas; however, developments on public lands were only slightly affected. The greatest impact came from decreased recreational use during the summer.

The 1983 controlled floods on the Colorado River resulted in damage to beaches, campsites, boat docks, launch-sites and other recreation facilities. With the exception of Lake Havasu, the river was closed to all forms of boating when the flow reached 30,000 cfs and use of riverfront recreation facilities was physically eliminated. As a result, the BLM-administered recreation concessions lost virtually all camping and recreational vehicle revenue from July through August.

Mineral and Energy Resources

The management of minerals activity on public lands in the Yuma District is separated into three categories: locatable minerals, leasable minerals and salable minerals.

LOCATABLE MINERALS

Locatable minerals are those minerals which are appropriated by the public under the *General Mining Law of 1872*, as amended. These minerals include, but are not limited to gold, silver, mercury, uranium and copper. Several areas of the Yuma District, particularly those areas which were heavily prospected and mined at the turn of the century, have concentrations of mining claims. A majority of those claims, however, are not under active exploration or development. What little mining occurs on public lands is limited to a small-scale, usually consisting of screening and dry-washing sand and alluvium from dry washes in search of visible gold. Production figures from these operations are unavailable, but are estimated to be low. Mining companies are engaged in some exploratory drilling for minerals; three drilling programs were conducted in the district in 1983. Surface geological exploration, such as geochemical study, has probably been performed on a limited basis. Little information is available on these studies since no reports are required of the person or company doing the exploration.

Four regions in the district are considered to have favorable characteristics, including recorded past production and geologic properties, for future discoveries and production of locatable minerals. Portions of the Mohave Mountains, in the Chemehuevis Mining District, are highly favorable for discoveries of gold, silver and tungsten deposits. The Chemehuevis District produced some 1,500 tons of copper, lead, gold, silver and tungsten ores from 1913 to 1958. Approximately 500 mining claims are located in the Mohave Mountains.

Portions of the Buckskin Mountains are considered to have moderate to high potentials for the discovery of economic copper, gold, silver and iron deposits. Two mining districts, Cienega and Santa Maria, produced an estimated 1.6 million tons of copper, gold and silver ores from the 1860s to 1970 (Keith 1978). Approximately 560 mining claims exist in the Buckskin Mountains.

The western side of the Dome Rock Mountains, on which the La Paz Mining District is located, appears favorable for future discoveries of economic deposits of lead, gold, silver, tungsten and manganese ores. Approximately 1,800 mining claims are located on the portions of these mountains that are not withdrawn.

The Trigo Mountains have high to moderate potentials for metallic and non-metallic ore deposits. The Trigo, Silver and Eureka Mining Districts produced 138,000 tons of copper, lead, silver and manganese ores from 1880 to the mid-1950s. Approximately 370 mining claims are located on the portions of the Trigo Mountains that are not covered by military or wildlife refuge withdrawals.

LEASABLE MINERALS

Leasable minerals include oil, gas, coal, sodium, potassium, sulfur, gilsonite and geothermal resources. Only oil and gas (O&G) leases have been issued in the Yuma District, to date. Because there are no known O&G resources in the district, the leases were issued on a noncompetitive basis.

Three areas in the Yuma District have been classified as prospectively valuable for oil and gas (Leasable Mineral Classification Maps, BLM Arizona State Office). Approximately the northern half of the district lies within the extrapolated boundaries of the overthrust belt, which is classified as prospectively valuable because oil and gas have been produced from this geologic structure in other states. The area from Yuma south to the Mexican border, which is part of a geologic structure known as the Yuma Basin, and an area in the extreme eastern part of the district, known as the Gila Trough, have also been classified as prospectively valuable. A USGS report states that the Yuma Basin and the Gila Trough may produce commercial quantities of oil and gas, but the overall potential for production of these resources in southwest Arizona is low to zero (Ryder 1983). There is no current exploration for or production of oil and gas on public lands in the district. However, exploration drilling is being done on adjacent private and state lands in the Yuma area.

BLM has classified 1,920 acres of the district, located between Tacna and Wellton, as prospectively valuable for geothermal resources. This classification is based on a hot spring (now dry) which produced water at a temperature of 120°F.

BLM has also classified 3,840 acres four miles west of Quartzsite as prospectively valuable for potassium.

SALABLE MINERALS

Salable minerals include common varieties of sand and gravel, stone, cinders, pumicite and clay. These materials are sold to the public on request at fair market value, or are provided to federal, state and local government agencies through Free-Use Permits on a case-by-case basis. Approximately 30,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel were sold to private concerns in the district in 1983. The Arizona Department of Transportation, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and county agencies occasionally remove sand, gravel and stone from 27 free-use sites located throughout the district for road construction and repair, as well as other projects.

METALS, NON-METALS AND ENERGY RESOURCES

Some of the discussions of impacts to mineral development (Chapter 4) refer to metallic, non-metallic and energy resources. Metallic minerals are those minerals which are processed to yield metals. Non-metallic minerals are processed to produce non-metal commodities or, like sand and gravel, can be used industrially with little or no processing. Energy resources are consumed in the generation of energy. Table 3-2 is a partial listing of metals, non-metal commodities, and energy resources found in the Yuma District.

Table 3-2: A PARTIAL LIST OF MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES IN YUMA DISTRICT
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Energy Resources	Mineral Resources	
	Metals	Non-Metals
Uranium	Antimony	Alum
Thorium	Beryllium	Barite
Geothermal	Bismuth	Bentonite
	Chromium	Crushed stone
	Copper	Gypsum and anhydrite
	Gold	Feldspar
	Iron	Fluorite (fluorspar)
	Lead	Kyanite and related minerals
	Manganese	
	Mercury	Perlite
	Molybdenum	Sand and gravel
	Rare Earth	Zeolite
	Silver	
	Tungsten	
	Vanadium	
	Zinc	
	Zirconium and Hafnium	

SOURCE: BLM, Yuma District 1984

CLASSIFICATION OF MINERAL RESOURCE POTENTIAL

The classification of mineral resource potential presented in this EIS is based largely on a BLM-developed rating system used in Geology, Energy and Minerals (GEM) assessments for the area. These GEM reports are on file at the Yuma District Office. Mineral resource survey reports prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Bureau of Mines are also available for several areas in the district.

Low Mineral Potential

The geologic environment and the inferred geologic processes indicate low favorability for accumulation of mineral resources.

Moderate Mineral Potential

The geologic environment, the inferred geologic processes and the reported mineral occurrences indicate moderate favorability for accumulation of mineral resources.

High Mineral Potential

The geologic environment, the inferred geologic processes, the reported mineral occurrences and the known mines or deposits indicate high favorability for accumulation of mineral resources.

MINERAL POTENTIAL IN SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

Table 3-3 describes the mineral potential for the 15 natural areas being considered for special management area designation.

Rangeland Resources

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

The Yuma District presently authorizes grazing on all or portions of 14 grazing allotments with approximately 827,000 public land acres in portions of Yuma, La Paz and Mohave counties. These include 10 ephemeral allotments, three perennial-ephemeral allotments and one section 15 perennial-ephemeral lease. The Kingman and Lower Gila Resource Areas in the Phoenix District currently administer all of these allotments except for one — the Bishop Lease. Management of three of the ephemeral allotments — Silver Creek, Thumb Butte and Primrose — has already been addressed in Phoenix District planning documents. Those planning decisions are carried over into this RMP-PEIS for consistency.

Four allotments totaling 366,660 acres are designated as perennial-ephemeral (P-E) allotments with an authorized annual stocking rate of 3,998 animal-unit months (AUMs). As shown in Table 3–4, two P-E allotments are assigned to the improve (I) category, one to the maintain (M), and one to the custodial (C) category. (Allotment categorization procedures and criteria are described in *Appendix G–4*.) The four P-E allotments generally involve cow-calf operations; their current actual and authorized use is also listed in Table 3–4. The authorized stocking rate on these allotments is based on the yearlong grazing capacity of the available perennial forage. Additional livestock grazing use can be authorized for ephemeral forage when sufficient annual forage is present and such use does not conflict with other resource uses and needs or damage the perennial vegetation resource. However, the predominant perennial forage species on these allotments — big galleta grass — is seasonal in nature. During dormant periods, galleta grass is highly unpalatable and livestock depend on annuals and available browse for forage. Accordingly, the seasonal nature of galleta grass is considered when calculating additional grazing capacity.

Ten allotments in the RMP area are designated as ephemeral allotments and are administered according to the special ephemeral rule published in the *Federal Register* in December 1968 (see *Appendix G–8*). Ephemeral range does not consistently produce forage, but periodically provides vegetation suitable for livestock grazing. In years of abundant moisture and other favorable climatic conditions, a large amount of forage may be produced. Favorable years are highly unpredictable and the season is usually shortlived.

Currently, no allotment management plans have been developed for any of the allotments in Yuma District. Existing rangeland improvements on 14 allotments are listed in *Appendix G–3*.

RANGELAND VEGETATION

Vegetative Types

Two vegetative types make up nearly all of the rangeland vegetation in the district. The creosote bush type produces little perennial forage but provides a large portion of the district's ephemeral forage. Associated plants include white bursage, ironwood, ratany and wolfberry. The palo verde type has greatest vegetative density on bajadas and in desert washes. It produces little perennial forage but abundant ephemeral forage under favorable climatic conditions. Associated plants include saguaro, creosote bush, ocotillo, wolfberry, big galleta and bush muhly.

Phenology

Table 3–5 shows the phenology or development stages of key species in the RMP area. These dates represent an average since many of the desert plants are opportunistic, growing and reproducing at any time of the year under suitable temperature and moisture conditions. Climatic variations in the desert require grazing management systems that can adjust to variations in phenology of desirable forage plants.

TABLE 3-3: MINERAL POTENTIAL IN SMAs
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

SMA	Description of Potential		Remarks
	Minerals	Oil and Gas[b]	
Crossman Peak	This area has a high potential for locatable minerals. Small deposits of lode gold, silver, tungsten and placer gold have been intermittently mined in the past. There is a moderate potential for deposits of perlite, opal and manganese.[a]	Oil and gas resource development potential is low	Open to mineral location
Aubrey Hills	There is a low to moderate potential for locatable mineral resources development. The geology is similar to Mohave Mountains to the north.	Oil and gas resource development potential is low	Much of the area is within the Lake Havasu State Park
Whipple Mountains	Base and precious metallic mineralization is found in localized shears and contacts in metasediments and metagranitics. The area has a moderate potential for mineral resource development.[c]	Oil and gas resource development potential is low	Under Reclamation withdrawal
The Mesa	There is a low potential for mineral resource development in this area	Oil and gas resource development potential is low	Much of the area is under Reclamation withdrawal
Gibraltar Mountain	This area has historically produced gold, copper and silver ores. The area has a moderate to high mineral resource development potential.[d]	Oil and gas resource development potential is low	About 30% of the area is under Reclamation withdrawal
Banded Canyon	This area has a moderate potential for mineral resource development.[d] The southern part of the area is within the Santa Maria Mining District.	Oil and gas resource development potential is low	Open to mineral location
Planet Peak	The general area is favorable for the occurrence of metallic minerals and there is indirect evidence that uranium source rock is available.[d] The area has a moderate potential for mineral development.	Oil and gas resource development potential is low	Open to mineral location
Cactus Plain	The area has a low to moderate potential for metallic and non-metallic mineral resource development.[d]	Oil and gas resource development potential is low	Open to mineral location
La Posa Plain	This area covers approximately three square miles of sand and has a low potential for mineral resource development.	Oil and gas resource development potential is low	Open to mineral location
Big Marias	A study of lands adjacent to this area concluded that this area has a low potential for mineral resource development.[e]	Oil and gas resource development potential is low	Under Reclamation withdrawal
Milpitas Wash	The area has a low potential for mineral resource development.	Oil and gas resource development potential is low	Most of the area is under Reclamation withdrawal
Laguna-Martinez	The area has a moderate potential for mineral resource development. Limited gold and base-metal mining has occurred.[f] Sand and gravel resources have also been developed.	Oil and gas resource development potential is low	Under Reclamation withdrawal
Muggins Mountains	Small deposits of gold have been mined and uranium source rock is available.[g] Bentonite deposits have been reported.[h] Mineral resource development potential for this area is moderate.	Oil and gas resource development potential is low	Open to mineral location
Mohawk Mountains	Lead, zinc and silver have been mined within this area. The area has a moderate potential for metallic mineral resource development.[i]	Oil and gas resource development potential is low	Open to mineral location
Yuma Desert	This area has a low potential for mineral resource development.	Oil and gas resource development potential is low	Under Reclamation withdrawal

Sources:
[a] USDI, BM 1983; USDI, GS 1983b
[b] Ryder 1983
[c] USDI, GS 1982
[d] Cruver et. al. 1982a
[e] USDI, BM 1982
[f] USDI, BLM 1983d; Cruver et. al. 1982b
[g] USDI, GS 1984
[h] Funnel and Wolfe 1964
[i] Mueller et. al. 1982

TABLE 3-4: MANAGEMENT CATEGORIES AND LIVESTOCK GRAZING USE BY ALLOTMENT
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Allotment No.	Allotment Name	Allotment Type[1]	Mgmt. Category	Federal Acres	Present Authorized Livestock Use (AUMs)[2]	Actual Livestock Use (AUMs)[3]
0025	Crossman Peak	E	C	102,970	---	---
0044	Havasu North	E	C	13,132	---	---
0045	Havasu South	E	C	34,537	---	---
3007	Planet	E	C	175,471	---	---
3034	Ganado	P-E	I	92,250	1,836	1,836
3056	Morton	E	C	28,268	---	---
3059	Nine Mile	P-E	I	111,815	600	543
3075	Scott	E	C	253,244	---	---
3088	Wells	E	C	79,024	---	---
3093	Muse	P-E	M	134,526	1,046	---
5001	Bishop[4]	P-E	C	28,069	516	516
Total				1,053,306[5]	3,998	2,895

[1] E = ephemeral allotment; P-E = perennial-ephemeral allotment.
[2] Authorized Livestock Use = Current Active Preference.
[3] Actual Livestock Use = Average active annual use for 5-year period 1976-1980.
[4] Section 15 grazing lease.
[5] Approximately 77% of this acreage is in Yuma District, the remainder occurs in BLM's Phoenix District. In addition, does not include Silver Creek, Thumb Butte, and Primrose allotments totaling 141,098 federal acres.

Source: BLM, Phoenix District Office, 1983.

RANGELAND CONDITION AND TREND

Current ecological rangeland condition estimates are based on comparisons of the existing plant species composition on range sites inventoried in 1980–81 with the presumed climax plant community as described in range site guides developed jointly by BLM and the Soil Conservation Service. The closer a range site is to its climax stage, the higher is its condition rating. On the four P-E allotments in the EIS area, 35% of the public rangelands are in excellent condition, 30% are in good condition, 28% are in fair condition, and 7% are in poor condition (see Table 3–6). The methodology that was used in determining rangeland condition is described in *Appendix G-5*.

Grazing management plans are generally designed to improve or maintain ecological rangeland condition. It should be noted, however, that the climax state may not always be the desirable or productive stage. For example, a low producing site within the creosote bush type, rated in good to excellent ecological condition by the range site guides, may have little usable forage for livestock and certain wildlife species. The site would thus have little value for livestock and wildlife forage production.

"Apparent trend in rangeland condition" was determined for the four P-E allotments during the rangeland inventory for 1980 and 1981. The apparent trend in rangeland condition represents only a single year's observations and thus may not reflect the actual long-term trend of an area. The rangeland inventory showed that apparent trend in rangeland condition of the four P-E allotments within the RMP is 57% static, 42% up, and 1% down. Table 3–6 shows the apparent trend by allotment.

TABLE 3-5: PHENOLOGY OF KEY FORAGE PLANTS
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Plant	Development Stages: Start Growth	Dormancy	Flower	Dormancy
Bush Muhly	Feb. 15	May 1	August 1	November 30
Desert Globemallow	Feb. 15	May 1	August 1	November 30
Mormon Tea	Feb. 15	May 1	August 1	November 30
White Ratany	Feb. 15	May 1	August 1	November 30

TABLE 3-6: RANGELAND CONDITION AND APPARENT TREND ON P-E ALLOTMENTS
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Allotment No.	Allotment Name	Federal Acres	Vegetative Condition (% of Allotment): Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent	Apparent Trend in Condition (% of Allotment): Up	Static	Down
3034	Ganado	92,250	10	30	35	25	15	83	2
3059	Nine Mile	111,815	5	15	10	70	30	70	0
3093	Muse	134,526	5	40	35	20	80	20	0
5001	Bishop	28,069	12	24	64	0	0	100	0
Total %			7	28	30	35	N/A	N/A	N/A
Total Acres (000)		366.6	24.9	105.0	108.5	128.2	153.4	209.8	1.8

Source: Lower Gila South Range Inventory, Phoenix District, BLM, 1980-81.

Recreation

RECREATION USER PROFILE

Three distinct groups of visitors use the public lands in the Yuma District for recreational pursuits: a) winter visitors who migrate to Arizona primarily from the Pacific Northwest during the months of October through March, live in self-contained mobile camping units and are generally senior citizens, b) weekend visitors who come from southern California, ranging in age from 15–30, and c) visitors who come for day-use activities on weekends or weekday evenings. Visitors in the last user group represent all age groups from local communities along the river.

RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES AND USE

Use estimates, developments, facilities and recreation sites on BLM-administered lands are listed in *Appendix H*.

Water-Based Recreation Use

The Lower Colorado River is a highly valued recreation resource for people in southwestern Nevada, western Arizona and southern California. An estimated 17 million people can conveniently reach the river within a half day (USDI, BLM 1980a). Mild winter temperatures in the southwest deserts also attract other recreationists from the northern reaches of the nation.

The Lower Colorado River provides many water-based recreation opportunities, primarily fishing, swimming, boating and water skiing. Activity is concentrated around the population centers of Lake Havasu City, Parker Strip, Blythe and Yuma. BLM has jurisdiction on lands along the river, not on the river itself; however, recreation activities

Recreation on public lands along the Lower Colorado River is mostly in developed and undeveloped BLM recreation sites, developed concessions and areas leased for state, county and city parks.

BLM-Operated Recreation Sites. The Yuma District manages several intensively used recreation sites, including two fee sites (Squaw Lake and Empire Landing) and four other short-term camping areas. The areas are designed for camping, day-use and boat launching. Approximately 280,165 visitor days of recreation use occur annually at the fee sites and short-term camping areas. This use is heaviest on summer holiday weekends.

The Yuma District also manages nine day-use sites for recreational activities such as picnicking and nature study. Use at these sites is heaviest on holiday weekends during the summer.

Concessions. Fourteen concessions operate under BLM leases in the Yuma District. In the Havasu Resource Area two large operations are on Lake Havasu, while ten others line the river on the Parker Strip. The Yuma Resource Area has a concession near Imperial Dam and one southeast of Palo Verde, California. Concessions in the Yuma District provide recreation facilities such as variety stores, restaurants, marine service and camping areas.

Currently the demand for concession facilities is high. Winter visitor camping sites are filled to capacity during the period November through March, and short-term campsites reach capacity on about 30 days per year, especially on holiday weekends.

More than 850,000 visitor days were spent at Yuma District concessions in 1983. Visitor use at concessions has increased at an annual rate of 1% during the period 1978–1982. Assuming the trend continues, demand could exceed capacity during these high use periods in the future.

Areas Leased for State, County and City Parks. The Yuma District administers eight Reclamation leases and

State-operated Reclamation leases include Lake Havasu State Park and Buckskin Mountains State Park in Arizona and Picacho State Recreation Area in California. Approximately 1.2 million visitor days of recreation use occur annually at these areas, with the majority of the use at Lake Havasu State Park.

County-operated Reclamation leases include Mohave County Park and La Paz County Park in Arizona, and Park Moabi Marina in San Bernardino County, California. Approximately 126,000 visitor days of recreation use occur annually at these areas, with the majority of the use at Park Moabi Marina.

City-operated Reclamation leases include Needles Marina and Needles Park, both in San Bernardino County, California. Approximately 9,200 visitor days of recreation use occur annually at these areas, with the majority of the use at Needles Marina.

The three R&PP leases are all operated by Mohave County, Arizona. Two of these, Golden Shores and SARA Park, are community parks located away from the Colorado River. The third, River Bend Recreation Area, is presently undeveloped.

Some of the lands leased to state and county agencies have been subleased to private concerns for the development of concessions within the lease areas.

Long-Term Camping

The Yuma District manages two long-term visitor areas (LTVAs) in the Yuma Resource Area (see Map 7). The intent of the long-term visitor program is to provide campsites for annual winter visitor use on public lands, while minimizing damage to the desert environment.

The La Posa LTVA comprises 10,920 acres of public lands immediately south of Quartzsite, Arizona. The area is used primarily by winter visitors who occupy the area from November through April. Approximately 583,000 visitor use days were spent at La Posa during 1983.

The Imperial Dam LTVA includes 3,260 acres of public lands west of Imperial Dam on the California side of the Colorado River. During the mild winter months

During the period 1970-1983, a 6% yearly increase in winter visitor use has occurred on Yuma Resource Area lands. Assuming this trend continues, the portion of the Imperial Dam LTVA near Senator Wash will reach capacity (approximately 1,800 visitors) in six years. **However, sufficient capacity exists elsewhere in the Imperial Dam LTVA.**

Off-Road Vehicle Use

In 1983, an estimated 655,000 visitor hours of ORV use occurred in Yuma District. Intensive ORV use presently takes place along both sides of the Parker Strip, in the La Posa LTVA, near Senator Wash Reservoir, and at Jack Rabbit Pass. All other ORV use in the district is limited to existing roads and trails or desert washes.

Interim Off-Road Vehicle (ORV) designations were completed for about 750,000 acres or 63% of public lands in the Yuma District in 1980. Designations were made for open-intensive use, closed areas, and various limited use types.

The Havasu Resource Area is also the site of an annual ORV race — the SCORE Parker 400. The race itself is one of the largest remaining ORV races in the United States with a total length of 292.5 miles. The event is held on the first Saturday of February, with 400 ORVs permitted to participate. The race draws **more than 18,000 visitors and results in an estimated recreation usage of over 63,000 visitor days. About two-thirds of these 18,000 visitors come from outside the Parker-Havasu area.**

Backcountry Recreation Use

Recreation also occurs in backcountry areas of the district. The backcountry is the largest unit in terms of area, but serves the least number of recreationists. It generally includes all public lands that are not immediately adjacent to the Colorado River. Notable features are the mountain ranges and valleys which are well-suited for dispersed recreation. Special management areas and wilderness study areas fall into the backcountry class. The Bureau has a minimum recreation investment in facilities and management costs within this management area. Typical activities include hiking, remote camping, ORV use, nature study and photography, rockhounding, hunting, recreational mining and other dispersed recreational activities.

Firewood Collection by Recreationists

Firewood collection is a problem on public lands in the Yuma District. The desert environment does not produce enough wood to keep up with demand and as a result, some areas are denuded of all forms of wood vegetation. In the past, the Yuma District permitted collection and transportation of up to one-half cord of wood. In the spring of 1983, however, the firewood collection policy for the Yuma District was abolished.

Most firewood collection is within 2-3 miles of the Colorado River and is concentrated in camping or day-use areas. Public lands near the La Posa LTVA have been especially hard hit by wood collectors.

Unique Natural Areas and Features

Fifteen areas in the Yuma District contain natural features that have been recognized in prior plans or reports as being unique, important and deserving of some form of special management. Alternatives for managing these 15 areas are described in Chapter 2. The following is a description of the notable characteristics of each of these areas.

CROSSMAN PEAK

Crossman Peak forms an imposing and relatively undisturbed backdrop to Lake Havasu and the highly developed Lake Havasu City area. Previous land use plans and studies have recommended that the area be retained in its essentially natural condition to protect these unusual scenic values.

A small stand of single needle pinyon pine (*Pinus monophylla*) grows at the 5,000-foot level of the peak. The stand has been identified by the Arizona Natural Heritage Program as representing "an isolated pure stand of this species that grows to an unusually low elevation" (Koppinger 1982).

Desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*) inhabit the Mohave Mountains. One of the few known lambing areas for the sheep in the Mohave Mountains is located immediately northwest of Crossman Peak.

The area around Crossman Peak also provides habitat for a sensitive wildlife species — desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizi*) — and for two species that have a limited range in Arizona — desert night lizard (*Xantusia vigilis*) and Gilbert's skink (*Eumeces gilberti*).

In addition, Crossman Peak is important in traditional and contemporary Native American (Mohave) religion (USDI, BLM 1979b).

AUBREY HILLS

The Aubrey Hills are a range of low, rugged mountains that cover an area of approximately 20,000 acres along the east side of Lake Havasu. They contain important wildlife habitat and form an impressive scenic background for Lake Havasu City. Much of their area is included within the boundary of Lake Havasu State Park, and a portion of

the northern end of the Aubrey Hills has been designated as the Aubrey Hills State Natural Area by the Arizona State Parks Board and the State Natural Areas Council.

WHIPPLE MOUNTAINS

A variety of natural and cultural features give the Whipple Mountains scientific, educational and aesthetic value. A portion of the Whipples (15,170 acres) has been proposed for designation as a Natural Landmark in a Department of the Interior commissioned report (Martin 1979). The Whipples have also been recommended to BLM for designation as a Natural Area by Dr. Wilber Mayhew, University of California, Riverside.

The Whipples are primarily in BLM's California Desert District, but the eastern end of the range extends into Yuma District.

The Whipple Mountains are culturally important to most of the Colorado River Indian Tribes because of their numerous ritual and sacred sites. A majority of the geologic formations in the range have spiritual significance. Numerous aboriginal trails are also present.

The Whipple Mountains are also conspicuous from a vegetative standpoint. The largest stand of saguaro (*Cereus giganteus*) known to occur in California is found in this area. The Whipples are also one of the few places in California where foothills palo verde (*Cercidium microphyllum*) occur. A hybridized species — foothills palo verde crossed with blue palo verde (*C. floridum*) — is found in the Whipple Mountains along the Colorado River aqueduct. In all, almost 100 species of vascular plants have been recorded by researchers in the Whipples.

There are a number of hardened packrat (*Neotoma* sp.) middens in the range. These middens contain plant microfossils, pollen, bones and insect remains. They date from a few hundred years to more than 40,000 before present and, with few exceptions, record the existence of woodland plant communities that persisted in the modern, hot desert until some 8,000 years ago.

The area is also historic range for desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis*). This population disappeared approximately 30 years ago. In 1983–86, about 60 sheep will be reintroduced into the area in a series of three releases.

THE MESA

The northern end of the Mesa is characterized by massive and rugged cliffs that bound the verdant Bill Williams River Canyon. These unique geological formations constitute some of the most outstanding scenic features in the Havasu Resource Area (USDI, BLM 1975). The Mesa also includes one of the few remaining desert bighorn sheep lambing grounds in the Buckskin Mountains.

GIBRALTAR MOUNTAIN

This area is characterized by a complex system of deep, sandy-bottomed canyons that dissect volcanic rock. It is a rugged, scenic and essentially natural area that provides some of the most outstanding primitive recreation opportunities in the Yuma District.

The canyons in the area appear to be highly attractive for recreation activities involving foot or horseback travel. The entire canyon system presents an interesting challenge for foot travel; trips covering considerable distances are possible in this area. Many of the larger canyons can sustain horseback travel as well.

The winding courses taken by many of the canyons provide ever-changing vistas of the surrounding ridges, as well as changing vegetation patterns in the canyon bottoms. These striking changes in landscape and vegetation make the area attractive for primitive recreation activities such as photography and sightseeing.

The area also represents the western edge of desert bighorn sheep range in the Buckskin Mountains. One of the few remaining lambing areas for the sheep is located at the northern end of the area around Giers Mountain.

BANDED CANYON

Because of its unique geologic features, Banded Canyon has been proposed as a National Natural Landmark (Wachter, Bull and Reynolds 1976). The canyon is located along the Bill Williams River. It is named for the layers of schists and gneisses that make up the canyon walls along its 15-mile length. In addition to these rocks, the canyon also has Cretaceous sediments, Quaternary basalt and Quaternary-Tertiary sediments.

Banded Canyon represents a constriction in the drainage for all of west-central Arizona. The basalt is thought to be part of an extensive Tertiary-Quaternary volcanic event that may have dammed the original drainage, thereby influencing the recent geologic formation of that portion of the state.

The canyon also exhibits a plant association that is transitional between the Mohave and Sonoran Deserts, as well as a specialized flood-tolerant ecology that has been altered by the presence of an upstream dam.

PLANET PEAK

The Planet Peak area includes a considerable expanse (approximately 15,000 acres) of primitive desert mountain environment and is characterized primarily by relatively few disturbances (USDI, BLM 1975). The area also includes critical habitat and migration routes for desert bighorn sheep in the Buckskin Mountains.

CACTUS PLAIN

The Cactus Plain has been identified by the Arizona Natural Heritage Program as the single most important natural area within the Havasu Resource Area (Koppinger 1982).

The most important features of the Cactus Plain are two dunescrub plant communities (Koppinger 1982, Smith 1976):

> *Hilaria rigida - Ephedra trifurca - Croton californicus* dunescrub covers the western portion of the area. This community is characterized by widely scattered perennial plants and a low species diversity, with big galleta grass (*Hilaria rigida*) by far the most important plant.
>
> *Hilaria rigida* - mixed shrub dunescrub covers the eastern portion of the area. The most common perennial in this community is big galleta grass, which occurs with several codominant woody perennials normally associated with Arizona upland and Lower Colorado communities and not with dunescrub communities. It is unusual to see such plants as saguaro, ocotillo, blue palo verde, foothills palo verde, buckhorn, silver cholla and white bursage on dunes.

These communities are known only from the Cactus Plain, where they each cover several thousand acres. Although the Cactus Plain lies within the boundaries of three grazing allotments, the vegetation communities on much of the area have been virtually untouched by livestock because of poor water distribution.

Several sensitive plant species are known to grow on the Cactus Plain — including wooly heads (*Nemacaulis denudata*) and linearleaf sand spurge (*Stillingia linearifolia*). Cactus Plain also provides important habitat for sand flat milkvetch (*Astragalus insularis*) and Death Valley Mormon tea (*Ephedra funerea*).

Several wildlife species with limited range in Arizona are known to live on the Cactus Plain — including the elf owl (*Micrathene whitneyi*) and Mohave Desert fringe-toed lizard (*Uma notata scoparia*). The stabilized sand dune formation is, in itself, curious from a geological standpoint because no other sand dune deposits of any significance occur in the vicinity. Moreover, the stabilizing force -- big galleta grass — represents an unusual feature in this arid region (USDI, BLM 1975).

The Black Peak Sand Dunes near Black Peak at the western end and the Bouse Sand Dunes near Midway at the eastern end of the Cactus Plain exemplify semi-consolidated and consolidated sand dune habitat in Arizona and may be outstanding sites for ecological studies of sand dune succession, flora and fauna (Smith 1976). Both sites have been proposed as Arizona State Natural Areas.

LA POSA PLAIN

A portion of the La Posa Plain provides an excellent example of a creosote bush-bursage-big galleta grass plant community on extensive flats of consolidated sand dunes (Smith 1976). The La Posa Plain also provides habitat for the Mohave Desert fringe-toed lizard (*Uma notata scoparia*).

BIG MARIA MOUNTAINS

The Big Maria Mountains are primarily in BLM's California Desert District, but the southeastern end of the range extends into Yuma District.

The portion of the Big Maria Mountains in Yuma District contains nationally significant cultural resources such as the Blythe Intaglios and 30 other geoglyph sites (intaglios and dance patterns — see Table 3-1). The Blythe Intaglios, six giant human and animal images formed on the desert pavement, are on the National Register of Historic Places. These unique cultural resources in the Big Marias are recognized by the BLM as the single greatest concentration of geoglyphs in North America.

The Big Maria Mountains also contain cultural resources such as rock alignments, sleeping circles, stone tools, pot sherds and trails.

Two sensitive plant species are known to grow in the Big Maria Mountains — foxtail cactus (*Coryphantha vivipara* var. *alversonii*) and barrel cactus (*Ferocactus acanthodes* var. *acanthodes*). They are both candidate species for federal listing as either endangered or threatened, Category 2 (*Federal Register*, December 15, 1980 and as amended *Federal Register*, November 28, 1983). Desert bighorn sheep also inhabit the range.

MILPITAS WASH

Milpitas Wash is in the BLM California Desert District as well as the Yuma District. The Milpitas Wash area represents one of the largest examples of virtually undisturbed Sonoran Desert remaining in California. The area incorporates a variety of plant and animal communities, including desert mountain foothills, wash and floodplain habitats and creosote bush flats (California Natural Area Coordinating Council 1983).

The washes and adjacent areas commonly have mesquite (*Prospis juliflora*), ironwood (*Olneya tesota*), palo verde (*Cercidium floridum*), catclaw acacia (*Acacia greggi*) and salt bush (*Atriplex* ssp.).

Animal populations in the area include such mammals as the leafnose bat (*Microtus californicus*), several *myotis* species, at least 13 rodent species including the Merriam and desert kangaroo rats (*Dipodomys merriami* and *D. deserti*), and the long tail and little pocket mice (*Perognathus formosus* and *P. longimembris*). The area also has rich bird and reptile populations, including the desert tortoise (*Gopherus agassizi*) and the western diamondback rattler (*Crotalus atrox*).

LAGUNA-MARTINEZ

Located along the Colorado River between Martinez Lake and Laguna Dam, Laguna-Martinez is an extensive area of riparian vegetation and provides habitat for numerous species of wildlife including the Yuma clapper rail, the black rail **and the yellow-billed cuckoo. A sizeable percentage** of the U.S. population of the Yuma clapper rail seasonally resides within this area.

The Yuma clapper rail is a federally-listed endangered species. Both the Yuma clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*) and the black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus*) are also listed by the States of Arizona and California. **The yellow-billed cuckoo is a candidate species for Federal listing and is also listed as rare by the State of California.**

MUGGINS MOUNTAINS

The dominant peaks at the western end of the Muggins Mountains, with their rugged landforms and colorful geologic strata, are considered exceptionally scenic for the region. Klothos Temple, in particular, stands out among these peaks as a scenic attraction. The southwestern edge of the range has numerous habitation areas and artifacts from aboriginal cultures.

MOHAWK MOUNTAINS

The rugged and jagged physiography of the northern end of the Mohawk Mountains provides sharp contrast to the flat desert monotony on either side of the range for travelers on Interstate 8.

YUMA DESERT

The Yuma Desert represents a sandy creosote bush vegetative type. This type of undisturbed desert ecosystem has largely disappeared from the region (USDI, BLM 1975). The Yuma Desert also provides habitat for **a)** sandfood (*Ammobroma sonorae*), a candidate species for inclusion on the federal list of threatened and endangered species (Koppinger 1983), **b) the flat-tailed horned lizard which is listed by the State of Arizona and is a candidate species for Federal listing and c) the fringe-toed lizard which is listed by the State of Arizona and is a candidate species for Federal listing.**

Vegetation

The Yuma District lies on the Sonoran region of the Basin and Range province. About 90% of the district land area is Sonoran Desert and the remainder is covered by the Mohave Desert which extends into the district from just north of Needles south to approximately Lake Havasu City. Joshua tree and blackbrush indicate Mohave Desert, while saguaro cactus and palo verde are Sonoran Desert indicators.

Vegetational succession progresses very slowly in desert areas, except where surface disturbance has taken place. Despite the prolific seed-producing ability of many desert species, only a few plants survive to maturity due to low rainfall and harsh air and soil temperatures.

Natural vegetation in the district can be divided into two general vegetative types — riparian and desert shrub.

RIPARIAN VEGETATION

The riparian vegetative type is commonly found throughout the district in association with the banks and backwater areas of major river drainages, artificial water sources and desert springs. Riparian vegetation is found in riparian zones, the bands or zones along and around water sources. Important riparian species include cottonwood, willow, mesquite, saltcedar, arrowweed, cattail and bulrush. Bermuda grass, catclaw acacia, horsetail, carriso, saltbrushes, lycium and greasewood are other conspicuous species.

Although riparian vegetation communities account for less than 1% of the total district land area, they are important because they provide water and shade for domestic livestock, valuable nesting areas for raptors and other birds and food and cover for many species of wildlife. Perhaps the most significant attributes of riparian communities are that they form an often complex biotic network with the streams along which they are found. This riparian/stream interaction is necessary to maintain acceptable water quality and suitable habitat for fish and other aquatic organisms.

DESERT SHRUB

A few hundred feet from the Colorado, Bill Williams and Gila Rivers, the dense riparian vegetation quickly gives way to specialized desert vegetation. Due to variations in soil, drainage, elevation and aspect, desert plant life is not uniform throughout the district; but it can generally be subdivided into five physiographic types — stabilized sand dunes, desert washes, alluvial fans and plains, intermountain valleys and upland desert and mountains.

Most vegetation in valleys occurs in wash-associated bands separated by desert pavement. Creosote bush, bursage and brittle bush are common to all desert washes. Broadleaf trees such as palo verde, ironwood, catclaw and mesquite are confined primarily to the major washes. The nearly level alluvial fans and plains have uniform stands of sparsely spaced shrubs in which creosote bush is the dominant perennial plant. In addition, annual forbs and grasses are seasonally abundant when precipitation is adequate. The rock pavement typically covers 60–80% of the ground surface, with vegetation covering 5–15%

The upland desert and eroding mountain slopes support a rich flora in areas where coarse soils allow deep infiltration of rain water. Some cacti, palo verde, desert ironwood and crucifixion thorns grow in fairly dense stands in mountain washes. However, the rocky areas have sparse vegetation and appear barren. Smaller shrubs and perennial herbs do occur and ephemeral species mask the barren rocky soil following rain. An isolated pocket of pinyon-shrub is found in the upper elevations of Crossman Peak.

THREATENED, ENDANGERED AND SENSITIVE PLANTS

No federally-listed threatened or endangered species have been recorded within the district to date. However, eight candidate and six Bureau sensitive plant species are known or suspected to exist within the Yuma District. These are listed in Table 3-7.

In addition, many state-protected plant species grow throughout the district. Arizona has protected a number of slow-growing, drought-resistant desert plant species because of depredation by people. Some of these plants are common, such as blue palo verde, foothill palo verde, honey mesquite, screwbean mesquite, smoketree, ironwood, ocotillo and all of the cactus family. Others such as desert holly, crucifixion thorn, Joshua tree and all members of the lily, amaryllis and orpine families are less common throughout the district.

In California, all members of the cactus, agave and *Fouquieria* (e.g., ocotillo) families and the mesquite and palo verde genera are protected. Other plant species in the district protected by the state of California include elephant tree, crucifixion thorn, cat claw, desert holly, smoketree and ironwood.

Table 3-7: T&E CANDIDATE AND SENSITIVE PLANT SPECIES IN YUMA DISTRICT
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Scientific Name	Status[b]
Bursera microphylla	SB
Cereus greggi	SC
Coryphantha vivipara acanthodes	SC
Euphorbia platysperma	SC
Ferocactus acanthodes acanthodes	SC
Helicanthus niveus tephrodes	SC
Mentzelia nitens leptocaulis	SB, E
Nemaculis denudata	SB
Opuntia wigginsii	SC
Palafoxia arida gigantea	SC
Pholisma arenarium	SB
Polygonum fusiforme	SC
Rhus kearneyi	SB
Stillingia linearifolia	SB

[a] Appendix F-1 lists common names of these plant species

[b] Status Key:
SC—Federal T&E candidate species
SB—Bureau sensitive species
E—Species is thought to be extinct

Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1984.

Visual Resources

Visual resources in the Yuma District have been classified using BLM's Visual Resource Management (VRM) system — a process used to identify and manage scenic values on the public lands. It evaluates three landscape components: a) scenic quality, b) distance from which the landscape is typically viewed and c) sensitivity of people to changes in the existing landscape.

Landscape classes range from Class I, the most scenic and therefore the most sensitive to development changes, down to Class IV, the least scenic and also least sensitive to development.

To qualify as Class I, an area must also have acquired a special designation, e.g., Wilderness or Area of Critical Environmental Concern. At present, there are no Class I areas in the district.

Class II areas in the Yuma District include the Colorado, Bill Williams and Gila Rivers and also the Mohave, Whipple, Muggins and Gila Mountains. In order to preserve the visual quality of these areas, management as Class II landscape requires that changes in the basic elements not be obvious or evident to the observer. Changes should not measurably alter the landscape's original appearance.

Class III areas in the district include most of the agricultural lands and a few desert areas. Management Class III requires that changes in the basic landscape may be evident but not overwhelming. Any changes should remain subordinate to the existing landscape.

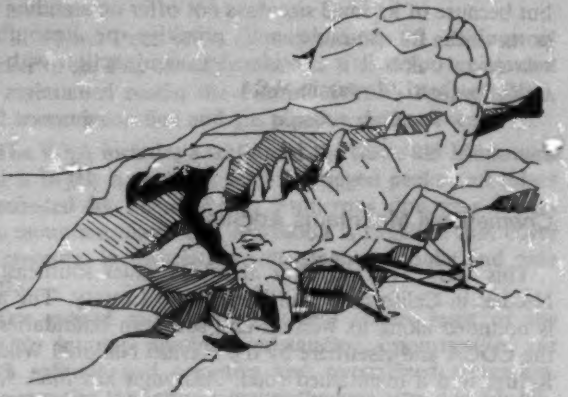
Class IV areas in the district include sparsely vegetated desert plains and the highly impacted lands near communities. Under this management class, changes may alter the basic landscape or attract the viewer's attention.

Wilderness Resources

BLM's Intensive Inventory, completed in September 1981, identified 22 wilderness study areas (WSAs) in Yuma District. **These twenty-two areas** being studied for wilderness are along the Colorado River corridor from Davis Dam south to the Mexican border. All **22** WSAs are accessible by vehicle. The physical characteristics of the WSAs are representative of specialized and fragile desert ecosystems. Extremes in environmental diversity occur in relatively short distances and contrasts are markedly defined. Low sandy plains are broken by mountain ranges that sharply rise to four thousand feet in elevation. The WSAs are essentially devoid of water.

These study areas comprise about **33%** of the public land in the district and cover a total of **394,465** acres. Table **B-1** lists the areas under wilderness study within the district (see *Appendix B*).

Ten of Yuma District's WSAs are of sufficient size to independently qualify for wilderness study. The remaining **12** areas are less than 5,000 acres in size and are referred to as add-ons. These add-ons qualify for wilderness study because they have been formally determined to have wilderness or potential wilderness values and are contiguous with lands managed by BLM's California Desert Conservation District or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that are under study for wilderness. The Whipple Mountains Addition, Chemehuevi Mountains Addition, Dead Mountains Northern Addition, Dead Mountain Southern Addition, Big Maria Mountains Northern Addition, Big Maria Southern Addition and Little Picacho Peak Addition are units that are contiguous with California Desert Conservation Area WSAs. **The Needles Eastern Addition is adjacent to a proposed wilderness area in the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge.** The Chemehuevi/Needles Addition is surrounded by the proposed wilderness in the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge and a WSA recommended for wilderness designation in the California Desert Conservation Area. The South Trigo Mountains WSA is adjacent to a proposed wilderness area in the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge and the **three** Kofa units are contiguous with proposed wilderness areas in the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge.



DESCRIPTION OF INDIVIDUAL AREAS

The following sections provide a brief description of each of the **22 WSAs. A detailed analysis of each area will be presented in a separate document covering the wilderness issue (see *Issue 7: Wilderness* in Chapter 1).**

Dead Mountains Northern Addition

This WSA (1,815 acres) is in San Bernardino County, California, about five miles southwest of Riviera, Arizona. It is bounded on the north and west by a California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) WSA and elsewhere by state and private lands and a transmission line maintenance road.

The area lies on a bajada sloping eastward from the Dead Mountains, with gently rolling hills and deeply cut washes. Vegetative cover is extremely sparse and mostly creosote, bursage and cholla.

Because of its size, this WSA offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation only if it is considered as an integral part of the adjoining CDCA WSA. The area is natural, with no man-made developments.

Dead Mountains Southern Addition

This WSA (630 acres) is 10 miles southwest of Riviera, Arizona, in San Bernardino County, California. The unit consists of two separate roadless areas which are bounded on the south and west by the CDCA's Dead Mountain WSA and elsewhere by maintained roads and private land.

The WSA is part of a bajada which slopes eastward from the Dead Mountains, with gently rolling hills dissected by small washes. Vegetative cover is sparse, consisting primarily of creosote, bursage and cholla, with the plant life that is normally associated with desert washes conspicuously lacking.

The area is natural, with no man-made developments, but because of its small size does not offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive or unconfined recreation unless it is considered in conjunction with the CDCA's Dead Mountain WSA.

Chemehuevi Mountains Addition

This WSA (195 acres) is about 11 miles southeast of Needles in California's San Bernardino County. The area is bounded along its western and southern boundaries by the CDCA and elsewhere by the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge and a maintained road. Although less than 5,000 acres in size, the WSA is contiguous with the CDCA's Chemehuevi Mountains WSA (CDCA 310).

The WSA's terrain is rugged, with a 200-foot difference in altitude occurring in its less than one-half-mile width. Vegetation is sparse consisting mainly of creosote and bursage.

There are no man-made developments in this WSA. The unit offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation only if it is considered in conjunction with the adjacent CDCA WSA 310.

Chemehuevi/Needles Addition

This WSA (960 acres) is located at the western edge of Topock Gorge, about five miles south of Topock, Arizona, in San Bernardino County, California. The proposed Needles Wilderness (within the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge) and a maintained road form the WSA's northern and eastern boundaries. Elsewhere the WSA abuts the CDCA's Chemehuevi Mountains WSA (CDCA 310).

The topography is gently rolling hills dissected by easterly flowing washes. The vegetation is sparse, consisting primarily of creosote, bursage and cholla with palo verde and ironwood occurring in some of the washes.

The area is natural, with evidence of man-made developments being absent. However, because of its small size, the area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation only if it is considered as part of either the proposed Needles Wilderness or the CDCA Chemehuevi Mountains WSA 310.

Needles Eastern Addition

This WSA (465 acres) is five miles southeast of Topock in Mohave County, Arizona. The WSA's western boundary is contiguous with a unit of proposed wilderness in the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge. Elsewhere the unit is bounded by private lands and a maintained road.

The WSA includes a small portion of the rugged northern end of the Mohave Mountains and is dissected by minor washes which feed into a major north-flowing wash along the WSA's eastern boundary. Vegetative cover is sparse with creosote, bursage and cholla dominant throughout the WSA, and some palo verde in the washes.

The area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation only when considered in conjunction with the proposed wilderness in the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge.

The only man-made development in the WSA is a vehicle way one-half-mile in length that is substantially unnoticeable.

Crossman Peak

The Crossman Peak WSA (38,630 acres) is in the Mohave Mountains in Mohave County, Arizona, about 10 miles northeast of Lake Havasu City. The area's boundaries are formed by maintained roads, a transmission line right-of-way, and state and private lands.

The terrain has steep, rocky slopes dissected by numerous drainages. The rocky slopes and thin soils produce a sparse vegetative cover, consisting mainly of desert shrubs and grasses, cholla and prickly pear cactus. Scattered pinyon and Joshua trees occur on the peaks and ridges.

Man-made developments related to past and present grazing and mining activity do not impair the area's naturalness, due primarily to the WSA's complex terrain.

The WSA offers outstanding opportunities for a number of primitive and unconfined recreation activties, including hiking, camping and photography. The rugged terrain and deep canyons screen out the sights, sounds and presence of other people.

Mohave Wash

The Mohave Wash WSA (104,605 acres) is 10 miles southeast of Lake Havasu City in Mohave County, Arizona. The WSA is bounded by maintained roads, state and private lands, the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge and areas under long-term recreation lease. Several state and private inholdings are inside the area.

The topography over most of the WSA consists of highland areas dissected by washes. The area includes volcanic tableland in the vicinity of Black Mountain and Mohave Springs Mesa, along with the rugged, low-lying ridges of the Bill Williams Mountains and the isolated

spires of the Castaneda Hills. Vegetative cover consists mostly of ocotillo, creosote, palo verde, smoketree and cacti.

The area's immense size and diverse terrain provide outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. Dissected by numerous washes, the highland areas provide the user with ample possibilities for solitude, as well as the opportunity for activities such as foot and horseback travel. The varied vegetational patterns are highly attractive for photography and nature study.

Effects of man-made improvements associated with grazing and mining use are dissipated by the WSA's immense area and varied terrain.

Whipple Mountains Addition

The Whipple Mountains Addition WSA (1,380 acres) is about five miles northwest of Parker Dam in San Bernardino County, California. The WSA is bounded on the west by the CDCA's Whipple Mountains WSA and elsewhere by maintained roads and state and private lands.

The WSA is in the east end of the Whipple Mountains and has rugged topography with four major washes. Vegetation is sparse and consists primarily of creosote, bursage and cholla. Palo verde predominates in the washes.

Because of its size this WSA does not in itself offer outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation, but would complement the CDCA's adjoining WSA.

Man-made developments include a few scattered mining sites but these are not substantially noticeable.

Gibraltar Mountain

The Gibraltar Mountain WSA (**25,260** acres) is at the western end of the Buckskin Mountains about 10 miles east of Parker in La Paz County, Arizona. The unit's boundaries are formed by a **transmission line right-of-way,** maintained roads, state and private lands, the Parker 400 race course **and areas of public land lacking wilderness characteristics.**

The area consists largely of a rugged mass of volcanic rock dissected by deep, sandy drainages and rocky canyons. Vegetation is largely a thin cover of creosote, staghorn cholla and barrel cactus with several dense concentrations of palo verde occurring in the washes.

Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation are outstanding. The deep drainages and rocky canyons with their dense stands of palo verde provide effective screening. In addition, the rugged topography and subtle vegetation changes make the area highly attractive for hiking and horseback riding.

Man-made developments include vehicle ways and evidence of mining and grazing activity. However, because these developments are widely dispersed and largely unnoticeable due to topography, they do not detract from the area's overall naturalness.

Planet Peak

The Planet Peak WSA (17,545 acres) is 20 miles east of Parker in La Paz County, Arizona. The WSA is bounded by maintained roads, the Central Arizona Project canal, and transmission line and gas pipeline rights-of-way.

The WSA includes a section of the Buckskin Mountains and is largely a compact mass of rugged peaks and ridges dominated by Planet Peak. Numerous drainages dissect this mountain mass. The vegetation is largely a thin cover of creosote, in association with staghorn cholla and palo verde.

The rugged mountain mass that covers most of the WSA's interior provides outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The complex topography makes the area attractive for hiking and mountaineering.

Man-made developments include vehicle ways and scattered evidence of mining activity. These developments are not particularly noticeable due to the area's topography. Most of the area remains virtually untouched.

Cactus Plain

The Cactus Plain WSA (70,360 acres) is 15 miles southeast of Parker in La Paz County, Arizona. The WSA's boundaries include maintained roads, the Central Arizona Project canal, a railroad, **a transmission line right-of-way, the Parker 400 race course** and state and private lands. Three sections (1,920 acres) inside the area are owned by the state.

The WSA is in the western half of the Cactus Plain, an immense open area of stabilized and partially stabilized sand dunes. Vegetation in the area includes big galleta grass along with saguaro, ocotillo, blue and foothills palo verde, buckhorn and silver cholla, and white bursage.

Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation are outstanding because of the topography — a dense network of ridges and hollows that screens out sights and sounds of other people — as well as the WSA's size and dense vegetation in its eastern half. Also, the large number of potential trailheads would tend to disperse use.

Man-made developments are few, widely dispersed and substantially unnoticeable.

Swansea

The Swansea WSA (41,690 acres) is 25 miles northeast of Parker in La Paz County, Arizona. Its boundaries are formed by maintained roads, **transmission line and gas pipeline rights-of-way**, and state and private lands. **There is a 640-acre inholding of private land in the WSA.**

The WSA embraces a short segment of the Bill Williams River, portions of the Buckskin Mountains to the south and the Rawhide Mountains to the north. The area's terrain is highly varied and includes a river canyon flanked by rugged mountains and some open tableland at the northern end. A complex system of drainages dissects the mountains. Vegetation consists primarily of creosote in association with staghorn cholla, barrel cactus and palo verde.

Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation are outstanding. The WSA's size, remoteness and topography provide opportunities to recreate without seeing or hearing other people or outside influences. Camping, backpacking, photography, nature study and hunting are some of the current recreational activities that occur in this WSA.

Man-made developments include scattered evidence of past mining, and vehicle ways leading to mines. However, the WSA's size and topography make these developments virtually unnoticeable. **Vast areas in the interior of the WSA remain virtually untouched.**

East Cactus Plain

The East Cactus Plain WSA (13,735 acres) is east of Parker in La Paz County, Arizona. The area is bounded by maintained roads, state land, **the Central Arizona Project canal, a transmission line right-of-way and the Parker 400 race course.** There is a 640-acre inholding of state land in the WSA.

The WSA's terrain is formed by stabilized and partially stabilized sand dunes. Vegetation includes big galleta grass along with saguaro, ocotillo, blue and foothills palo verde, buckhorn and silver cholla, and white bursage.

Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation are outstanding. Topographic screening from the stabilized sand dunes and vegetative screening provide barriers to separate people from others. Recreational opportunities include horseback riding, hiking, nature study, sightseeing (especially during the mornings and evenings) and photography.

Man-made developments are substantially unnoticeable, consisting mostly of a grazing development, old vehicle ways and the graded route of an old railroad.

Big Maria Mountains Northern Addition

This WSA (415 acres) is 29 miles north of Blythe in Riverside County, California. The WSA is bounded on the west and north by the California Desert Conservation Area's (CDCA) Big Maria Mountains Wilderness Study Area and elsewhere by the Colorado River Indian Reservation, maintained roads and nonfederal land.

The WSA is part of a bajada which slopes eastward from the Riverside Mountains, with gently rolling hills dissected by minor washes. The sparse vegetation is mostly creosote and bursage.

Due to its small size, the area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation only if it is considered as part of the adjoining CDCA WSA.

The only man-made development, a vehicle way crossing the WSA's southern end, is substantially unnoticeable.

Big Maria Mountains Southern Addition

This WSA (1,420 acres) is 12 miles north of Blythe in Riverside County, California. The WSA's western boundary is the CDCA's Big Maria Mountains WSA. Other boundaries are formed by maintained roads, vehicle ways, the Colorado River Indian Reservation and private lands.

The topography is relatively rugged with deeply cut washes, finger ridges, small spires and buttes scattered throughout. Vegetation is varied but consists primarily of creosote and bursage. Dense stands of palo verde and ironwood occur in some of the washes.

Due to its small size, the WSA offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation only if it is considered as part of the adjoining CDCA WSA.

Man-made improvements include four vehicle ways that are substantially unnoticeable because of washouts and natural revegetation.

South Trigo Mountains

This WSA (4,500 acres) is 20 miles northeast of Yuma in La Paz County, Arizona. The area is contiguous with a proposed USFWS wilderness area along its southern boundary, and is bounded elsewhere by maintained roads, state and private lands, and areas of public land lacking wilderness characteristics.

The terrain has sawtooth ridges with steep-sided canyons and is heavily dissected by washes, including Black Rock Wash. Vegetative cover varies with the terrain, but consists mainly of ocotillo, creosote, palo verde, mesquite and cactus.

Opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation are outstanding if this WSA is considered as part of the proposed wilderness in the adjoining Imperial National Wildlife Refuge (about 2,500 acres). The area's complex topography offers attractive opportunities for solitude and such primitive recreation activities as hiking, backpacking, camping, photography and nature study.

Man-made developments, which include a series of mining prospects and vehicle ways, **are not substantially noticeable within the area.**

Trigo Mountains

The Trigo Mountains WSA (36,870 acres) is in the western half of the Trigo Mountains, 25 miles north of Yuma in La Paz County, Arizona. The WSA is bounded by the U.S. Army's Yuma Proving Ground, the Imperial and Cibola National Wildlife Refuges, maintained roads, state and private land and areas of public land that lack wilderness characteristics. Two 40-acre state inholdings are inside the area.

The topography over most of the WSA has sharp ridges, steep-sided canyons and numerous deep washes. Vegetative cover is mostly ocotillo, creosote, palo verde, mesquite and cactus.

The area's ridge and canyon topography and vegetative screening in the lower washes provide outstanding opportunities for both solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation. The complex topography makes the area attractive for hiking, backpacking, camping, photography and nature study.

Man-made developments include scattered mining activity and vehicle ways. These developments are not particularly noticeable due to the area's topography and lack of recent use.

Kofa Unit 3 Southern Addition

This WSA (3,400 acres) is 2 miles south of Quartzsite in Yuma County, Arizona. The WSA is bounded by the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge on the east and south and public lands lacking wilderness characteristics on the other sides.

The WSA's topography is varied, including parts of the Castle Dome Mountains, west-sloping bajadas and the La Posa Plain. Vegetation consists primarily of ironwood, palo verde and saguaro in the washes, and creosote, bursage and galleta grass scattered over the area's extensive desert pavement.

The WSA offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation if considered as part of an adjoining proposed wilderness in the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge.

Man-made developments include two short vehicle ways and an Arizona Game and Fish water catchment. However, these developments do not detract noticeably from the area's naturalness.

Kofa Unit 4 Northern Addition

This WSA (1,900 acres) is 30 miles south of Quartzsite in Yuma County, Arizona. The WSA is bounded by Kofa National Wildlife Refuge on the south, and elsewhere by gas pipeline **and transmission-line rights-of-way, state lands**, and public land lacking wilderness characteristics.

The WSA's topography is generally steep and rugged, with an elevation change of 630 feet from its north to south boundaries. The area includes the northwestern end of the Castle Dome Mountains and part of an adjacent west-sloping bajada. Creosote, cholla and galleta grass comprise the sparse vegetation in the mountainous region, while the bajada and washes support ocotillo, saguaro, palo verde, creosote and a mix of desert shrubs.

The area offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation only when considered in conjunction with an adjacent Kofa National Wildlife Refuge proposed wilderness area. The rugged mountainous terrain provides for solitude and such recreational activities as camping, hiking, nature study, camping and photography.

The only man-made development in the WSA is a one-half-mile long vehicle way that is not visible from most of the WSA. **It is not substantially noticeable.**

Kofa Unit 4 Southern Addition

This WSA (11,220 acres) is approximately 30 miles northeast of Yuma in Yuma County, Arizona. The WSA is bounded by the U.S. Army Yuma Proving Ground, a transmission line right-of-way and the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge. The area is contiguous along a portion of its eastern border with a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed wilderness area in the wildlife refuge.

The WSA encompasses a small portion of an extensive bajada, known as the Castle Dome Plain, that slopes southwesterly from the Castle Dome Mountains. Numerous small washes dissect the area. The vegetative cover is primarily creosote bush, ocotillo, saguaro and bursage, with palo verde and ironwood in some of the washes.

The WSA offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive and unconfined recreation if considered as part of the adjoining proposed National Wildlife Refuge wilderness. Man-made developments include two vehicle ways, but these are not substantially noticeable.

Little Picacho Peak Addition

This WSA (2,915 acres) is northeast of Yuma, Arizona, on the southeast edge of the Chocolate Mountains in Imperial County, California. The WSA is roughly rectangular in shape, and is bounded on its western and southern boundaries by CDCA's Little Picacho Peak WSA, on the north and northeast by the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge, and by a county road on the remaining eastern side.

The terrain includes a series of rugged peaks sloping east toward the Colorado River with deep washes dissecting the slopes. The peaks support a sparse cover of creosite, mixed desert shrubs, annual grasses and galleta grass. Annual grasses dominate the slopes, while palo verde and ironwood are in the washes.

This WSA offers outstanding opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation only when considered in conjunction with the CDCA's adjoining WSA. No man-made developments have been found in the area.

Muggins Mountains

The Muggins Mountains WSA (14,455 acres) is on the south side of the Muggins Mountains, a small desert range 25 miles east of Yuma in Yuma County, Arizona. The WSA is bounded by the U.S. Army Proving Ground, private land, and public lands lacking wilderness characteristics.

The unit's western end includes a cluster of rugged peaks with the most prominent being Muggins Peak, Klothos Temple and Long Mountain. Twin Tanks, Long Mountain, Morgan, and other deeply cut washes drain this portion of the WSA. The remaining area is gently rolling hills cut by shallow drainages. Vegetative cover is sparse over most of the area and is primarily creosote, bursage, brittle bush, ocotillo and saguaro. Palo verde, ironwood and smoke tree occur in the washes.

Opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation are outstanding due to the WSA's topographic and vegetative screening, rugged peaks and colorful geologic strata. Recreational opportunities offered by the area include rock-climbing, backpacking, hiking, rockhounding, nature study, sightseeing and photography.

Man-made developments in the WSA include several vehicle ways totaling 4-5 miles in length that lead to old mining sites. The area's complex terrain conceals these developments from the majority of the WSA. Outside sights and sounds from agricultural activity to the south are noticeable from a small portion of the WSA.

Wildlife

Public lands within the Yuma District provide significant portions of the habitat requirements (food, cover, water and space) for a diverse array of wildlife species. Vegetative types such as riparian, desert shrub, desert tree, grassland shrub and agricultural lands are represented in the district. Special habitat features include cliffs, sand dunes, snags, springs, reservoirs, rivers, marshes, lakes and islands. Maintenance of these and other habitat types is critical to the continued existence of diverse, viable populations of wildlife.

The planning area contains approximately 535 species of: birds (385), mammals (60), reptiles (43), amphibians (10) and fish (37). For discussion purposes, this RMP-EIS focuses on priority wildlife species representative of the environment in general. Priority wildlife species are those species listed by the state wildlife agencies or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered, threatened or sensitive candidates; or fish and wildlife species of highly significant economic or recreational value.

BIG GAME

Mule Deer

Mule deer are found on both sides of the Colorado River throughout the district. Their populations are generally thought to be stable. Mule deer use, at least seasonally, all but the most rugged mountains in the district. They make extensive use of riparian vegetation adjacent to permanent water sources during the hottest months. During cooler months and after seasonal rainstorms, deer are able to spread out over the adjacent desert where they use the heavily vegetated washes for feeding, thermal cover and travel corridors.

Deer rely on shrub and forb species for much of their diet. Some use of agricultural lands is made although little damage to crops is thought to occur. **Normally there** is little competition between deer and domestic livestock. **The "green-up" or flush of green growth provides important seasonal forage resources for a diversity of wildlife species, including mule deer. Competition can be significant during this period, particularly in riparian drainage and wash areas where wildlife and livestock both tend to concentrate.** Some competition between deer and wild burro may occur in vegetated desert washes.

Bighorn Sheep

Mountain ranges in the Yuma District provide some of the best remaining bighorn sheep habitat in the southwest with stable populations in several areas. Water acts as a seasonal limitation on bighorn sheep distribution. During

the hot, dry summer months, sheep movements are confined to a limited radius around water. During cooler months and after seasonal rainstorms, sheep spread out over the rest of the habitat. Sheep in the Aubrey Hills and Whipple Mountains are able to water along Lake Havasu when not excluded by recreationists. Sheep feed on browse species extensively year-round. Grasses are a major component of the diet in early spring and late fall when new growth is present. Annual forbs and grasses are seasonally important.

Special habitat features used by bighorn sheep include lambing grounds and migration corridors. Lambing grounds in the district (11,100 acres) are typically the highest, most rugged and most isolated portions of desert mountain ranges. Lambing is a critical period in the annual cycle of the bighorn sheep and disturbance on these areas during the lambing season can cause abandonment of the range and loss of lambs (Monson and Sumner 1980). Newborn lambs can be found every month of the year; however, the majority of lambing in Yuma District occurs between January 1 and June 30. Habitat fragmentation poses one of the major threats to bighorn populations. Migration corridors are traditional movement paths sheep follow between adjacent mountain ranges. Roads, canals and fences serve as barriers to sheep movements and entire populations have been cut off from major portions of their range. Powerlines and pipelines may impede sheep movements in the same manner. Two migration corridors have been identified on lands administered by the BLM. The first is between the Chocolate Mountains and the Castle Dome Mountains near Stone Cabin, Arizona. The route has been cut by a two-lane highway (Arizona 95), a 161-kV transmission line and two El Paso Natural Gas lines. Movement between the two mountain ranges still occurs; however, it is unknown to what extent normal movements have been impacted. The second is in the Dome Rock Mountains where Interstate 10 bisects the range. This migration corridor is cut by a four-lane highway, two five-strand barbed wire fences and two high-power transmission lines.

Mountain Lions

Lions are found in the rugged mountains in the district and in some riparian habitat where the major river systems flow through mountainous areas. No population estimates exist; however, numbers are thought to be low. There is little or no problem with predation on domestic livestock. **This species is a candidate for inclusion on the federal endangered species list.**

SMALL GAME AND FURBEARERS

Migratory and upland game birds common to the planning area include white-winged dove, mourning dove and Gambel's quail. White-winged dove are summer residents and mourning dove are yearlong residents in the district. Both species rely on riparian areas and vegetated desert washes for nesting and cover. Citrus orchards are also important and both species are present to a lesser extent in desert and urban areas. Dove feed extensively on weed and agricultural crop seeds.

Gambel's quail are a common-to-abundant permanent resident throughout the district, with population peaks in late summer. Population concentrations are in riparian areas along the major rivers and near water sources on the desert. Other important areas include vegetated desert washes. Annual seeds, green growth and some insect matter make up the bulk of their diet.

Cottontail rabbits are common to the district as well, with population concentrations along the major rivers in riparian areas adjacent to alfalfa fields.

The coyote, bobcat and gray fox are the most important furbearers in the district in terms of harvest, monetary value and recreational days provided. Other common species include the beaver, muskrat, striped skunk, badger and kit fox.

WATERFOWL

The Colorado River is part of the Pacific flyway and acts as a major migration corridor for many species of ducks and geese. Open water along the river, as well as backwaters, marshes and agricultural lands, provide important cover, feeding and resting areas. A minimum of 10,000 to 15,000 Canada geese winter on Havasu, Cibola and Imperial Wildlife Refuges. Most species of ducks migrate through or are winter visitors only. Some species such as mallards, gadwalls and ruddy ducks do nest in the district; however, this is rare (Fleming 1959).

NON-GAME

Songbirds, small mammals, amphibians and reptiles are common in the Yuma District. Many of these species are important food sources for larger birds and mammals and are important as environmental quality indicators. Extensive inventories on species occurrence and the abundance of mammals and birds in different habitat types along the major river systems have been conducted (Rea 1983, Ohmart and Anderson 1983). Vitt and Ohmart (1978) describe the reptiles of the Lower Colorado River.

RAPTORS

Predatory bird populations are currently stable. Nesting species include prairie falcons, redtailed hawks, golden eagles, marsh hawks, great horned owls, barn owls, burrowing owls and American kestrels. Wintering migrants include the merlin, ferruginous hawk, osprey, Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks. Precipitous rock formations and mature cottonwood, willow and mesquite trees provide important nesting sites. Backwater lakes, riparian vegetation and desert wash corridors provide suitable habitat for the prey base that supports the raptor population. The once abundant and recently vanished Harris hawks are now being reestablished through an interagency program in native habitat along the Lower Colorado River.

FISH

The Colorado River contains an extensive warm water fishery. Common game species include striped bass, largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie, flathead catfish and channel catfish. Riparian communities, backwater areas, and marshlands on the public domain and Reclamation withdrawn areas provide important nesting, foraging and cover habitat for many fish species.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Five wildlife species found in the Yuma District have been federally classified as endangered.

Bald eagles historically nested along the Colorado River but no known breeding of bald eagles has occurred in recent years. A nesting attempt was made by a pair in 1978 on the Topock Marsh in Havasu National Wildlife Refuge. Increased sightings in the winter may be a function of wintering migrants from the far north. Loss of habitat has been implicated in their decline.

The Colorado River is historic habitat for a small population of peregrine falcons. While there have been scattered reports of wintering birds throughout the district in the recent past, there is no record of verified sightings in the last two years. Sightings of an occasional individual have been made during the breeding season, although no recent nesting sites are known. Adequate nesting habitat and prey base remain to support a successful reintroduction of the species.

The Yuma District provides habitat for approximately half the known population of Yuma clapper rails. Cattail and bulrush marshes and backwater areas are preferred habitat (USDI, Fish and Wildlife Service 1983). These birds are a locally common summer resident and breeder and they can be found along the river from the Mexico border north to Topock Marsh.

The California brown pelican and the California least tern are infrequent or accidental visitors to the district. The brown pelican feeds primarily on fish. It prefers large open water areas, such as near dams, and occasionally frequents marinas. The least tern prefers open water and marsh habitat and feeds primarily on small fish.

In addition to the above species, the razorback (humpback) sucker has been proposed for federal protection as a threatened species. This fish probably still inhabits the length of the Lower Colorado River, but is most often recorded in the large reservoirs such as Lake Havasu and Senator Wash.

There has been no declaration of official critical habitat for threatened or endangered species in the district. *Appendix E* lists threatened, endangered and sensitive wildlife species in the district.

IMPORTANT HABITAT FEATURES

Riparian Vegetation

Riparian areas are identified by the presence of vegetation requiring free or unbound water or conditions that are more moist than normal (Thomas et al. 1979). Approximately 23,100 acres of riparian vegetation remain on BLM-administered lands along the Lower Colorado, Bill Williams and Gila Rivers. These areas range in total size from 13,500 acres in the Laguna-Martinez area to isolated pockets of less than five acres scattered along the length of the river. The areas consist of various mixes of cottonwood, willow, mesquite and arrowweed communities. Large areas have been invaded by the exotic and less desirable saltcedar. Wildlife use riparian areas disproportionately more than any other type of habitat (Thomas et al. 1979). For example, in the Yuma District, approximately 430 species are either directly dependent on riparian zones or utilize them more than other habitats. Many species are found nowhere else. In addition, the influence of riparian habitat on wildlife species is not limited to only those animals dependent on these areas. The zone of influence of riparian habitat extends well beyond its boundaries into the adjacent desert communities. The presence of riparian vegetation stabilizes population densities of species in adjacent habitats (Carothers 1977).

Riparian areas on the Colorado River between Laguna Dam and Martinez Lake are important habitat for the federally-listed endangered Yuma Clapper rail and numerous other species of wildlife.

Nesting sites for many raptor species, as well as heron and egret rookeries, are found in riparian zones. Riparian areas provide access to the river and cover for such species as mule deer and the larger carnivores. Riparian areas provide essential resting and foraging habitat for numerous species of migratory bird life, particularly along the Colorado River.

Social Characteristics

The residents of the geographic area within and immediately adjacent to the Yuma District borders constitute the population group that would be affected by the RMP alternatives. Two social characteristics of this group - population trends and social attitudes - are described in this section.

POPULATION TRENDS

The Yuma District comprises portions of six counties. Table 3-8 summarizes population data for these counties and the larger cities and towns in or adjacent to the district. Approximately 125,000 people are permanent residents of the region. Of these, over 90% live in Arizona.

An important population factor, not shown in the census data summarized in Table 3-8, is the number of winter visitors who annually come into the Lower Colorado River area. Precise winter visitor totals are not available, although various estimates indicate that during the winter period, October to April, the average number of people in the Lower Colorado River area is 30 to 40% higher than figures shown in census data. For example, a study published by the Yuma County Chamber of Commerce reports that over 33,000 visitors were in the Yuma trade area during the peak of the season (Yuma County Chamber of Commerce 1983). The permanent population of the trade area is approximately 70,000.

TABLE 3-8: POPULATION TRENDS: 1970-2005
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Population Unit	1970[a]	1980[b]	Percent-Change 1970-1980	Projected 2005[c]
Mohave County (AZ)	25,857	55,865	116.1	89,500
Bullhead-Riviera	4,007	10,364	158.6	23,480
Lake Havasu City	4,111	15,909	287.0	22,740
La Paz County (AZ)[d]	---	12,487	---	14,900
Parker	1,848	2,542	37.6	2,975
Yuma County (AZ)[d]	60,827	78,067	28.3	122,500
Yuma City	29,007	42,433	46.3	68,580
San Bernardino County (CA)	683,233	895,016	31.2	NA
Needles	4,051	4,120	1.8	NA
Riverside County (CA)	456,916	563,166	45.1	NA
Blythe	7,047	6,805	-3.4	NA
Imperial County (CA)	74,492	92,110	23.7	NA

[a] Source: U.S. Bureau of Census, 1981.
[b] Source: County and City Data Book, 1983, U.S. Bureau of Census.
[c] Source: Population Statistics Unit, Arizona Department of Economic Security, October, 1984.
[d] La Paz County was created January 1, 1983, by subdividing Yuma County. The 1980 population data above has been adjusted to show this 1983 change.

During the winter season, visitors stay for varying lengths of time in any of several different types of accommodations: apartments, motels, mobile homes and recreational vehicle campgrounds. Many stay on lands administered by BLM in the trailer, mobile home and camping spaces that are provided at the various recreation sites (see the *Recreation* section of this chapter and *Appendix H* for detailed information).

SOCIAL ATTITUDES

This description of social attitudes associated with the issues and alternatives of the Yuma District RMP is focused primarily on residents in and adjacent to the district, and secondarily on winter visitors. Descriptions of the attitudes of other population groupings at the regional (six-county), state (Arizona and California) and national levels have been omitted because the actions of this RMP would not affect attitudes at those levels.

The data on which this description is based were assembled and collected from several sources. These include published documents (Stanford Research International 1978; USDI, BLM 1979c), a public opinion questionnaire (USDI, BLM 1983b) and informal interviews. The informal interviews were conducted by a BLM social analyst in all the major towns in and around the district and reflected volunteered opinions from business owners, winter visitors, elected and appointed officials and general public.

The data indicate three types of attitudinal categories. The largest of these is the group that for various reasons is not aware of or does not care to be involved in the RMP issues or alternatives. Response data from the BLM survey of registered voters and the *Survey of Residents of the California Desert* suggests that 50% or more of the district residents are in this category.

Two other categories exist: those who favor specific resource management actions and those who oppose these actions. The size of either of the groups and the intensity with which they express their position varies with at least two factors: the specific issue and the locale of the residential area in the district.

For example, in the locales of Riviera and Golden Shores in the northern part of the Yuma District there are large retirement communities. These people are on fixed incomes and favor more management activities that may produce revenues and fewer activities that may result in added taxes. Land sales and exchanges, recreational development and grazing are more broadly supported than wildlife habitat, special management areas or wilderness activities.

In contrast, land acquisition, the establishment of special management areas and wilderness are activities that appear to have stronger support in larger communities such as Lake Havasu City and Yuma than in smaller towns and rural areas.

Generally, the primary concerns of the district residents who were aware of the issues focused on recreation, land ownership and wildlife. These had the greatest amount and intensity of support and opposition. Recreational development was seen by some as a major need because of its importance to the economic welfare of the area and to the financial benefits of area residents. Others opposed additional recreational development – viewing it as a benefit for a few people and a burden to the rest (traffic congestion, regulation and protection costs, etc.). Some of those supporting and opposing BLM recreation management alternatives have strongly expressed their opinions to BLM through public meetings and written comments.

Land ownership adjustment issues have widespread and intense support and opposition. Some see these acquisitions, exchanges and sales as necessary and favor them, since they could reduce land management costs and increase efficiency. Some favor the acquisition of as much land as possible because they believe that federal ownership provides protection from commercial development. Some people have the opposite opinion, believing that public land should be made available for private ownership when and where there is a need or request. A wide range of comments has been expressed to BLM by people favoring and opposing land ownership adjustment alternatives.

Wildlife habitat management concerns also are important among residents of the Yuma District RMP region. These, expressed in public meetings and written comments, range from general criticisms that BLM is not doing enough to enhance the wildlife habitat resource to specific recommendations for the management of certain areas.

The three other management issues — grazing, special management areas and rights-of-way — have fewer proponents and opponents among district residents. Further, the intensity of the support or opposition to management alternatives for these issues was less than it was for the issues of recreation, land ownership adjustment and wilderness. However, strong individual statements were expressed in informal interviews and public meetings for and against the management alternatives for these issues.

NATIVE AMERICANS

Five reservations are in the region in and adjacent to the Yuma District. These, with 1980 population data, are: Fort Yuma (Quechan), 2,235; Cocopah, 355; Colorado River, 6,645; Fort Mohave, 550; and Chemehuevi, 87.

The residents of these reservations are very interested in maintaining and improving methods in and through which their respective traditions, beliefs and cultural values can be retained and transmitted to new generations. Through their tribal councils the reservation residents have expressed a number of land use concerns. These include the need for conserving and preserving areas where specific plants, used for food, basketry, medicinal and ceremonial purposes, can be gathered. Reservation residents also are concerned with the protection of lands on which important records of cultural traditions occur: intaglios, shrines, trails and campsites. Certain mountain peaks in the region have special significance for the Native Americans.

Economic Characteristics

ECONOMIC STUDY AREA

The data used for describing and analyzing the economic characteristics of Yuma District were available at varying levels of aggregation. Data aggregated at the county level were used to depict the regional economy. While portions of three California and three Arizona Counties make up the district, over 90% of the district's population reside in Arizona. For this reason, Arizona's Yuma, La Paz and Mohave Counties were used as the economic region or study area.

Communities along the Colorado River account for most of the economic activity in Yuma District and are therefore used to indicate the local economy and local economic impacts. These communities include Bullhead City-Riviera, Needles, Lake Havasu City, Parker Strip, Parker, Blythe, Ehrenberg, Quartzsite and Yuma. Other communities within the district would be relatively unaffected by the RMP and are therefore not included in the analysis.

EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME

Total employment and income for counties in the study area are listed in Table 3-9. Table 3-10 lists the percent of total county employment and income for economic sectors identified in Chapter 4 as being affected by decisions in the RMP. These tables show data for only two counties as the present La Paz County was part of Yuma County in 1981.

GRAZING

Ranches in Yuma and Mohave Counties ran 40,631 animal units in 1981 (Mayes and Archer 1982). Gross receipts from the sale of livestock for ranches in the two counties amounted to $105.5 million in 1981 (Arizona Livestock and Crop Reporting Service 1983). However, this figure includes revenue from the numerous large feeder operations in Yuma County and therefore is not indicative of the value of animal-units produced in the economic study area. An average value of $8.85 per AUM was recently reported for private lands in the 11 Western States (Arizona Livestock and Crop Reporting Service 1984).

TABLE 3-9: EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME IN ARIZONA COUNTIES, 1981
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Counties[a]	Total Employment[b] (No. of Jobs)	Total Income (Million)
Mohave	18,594	$249
Yuma	41,015	$570

[a]Employment and income data for La Paz County are not shown because La Paz was not formed as a county until 1983 and the data are therefore unavailable. The 1981 figures for Yuma County include La Paz County.

[b]Includes full- and part-time employment.

Sources: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, 1983; Arizona Labor Force and Employment, Arizona Department of Employment Security, 1983.

There are 14 grazing allotments in Yuma District — 10 ephemeral and 4 perennial-ephemeral allotments. The ephemeral allotments are grazed only in years when moisture is sufficient to provide adequate vegetative growth to support grazing. The four perennial-ephemeral allotments utilize 366,660 public land acres on which 3,998 animal-unit months or approximately 333 animal units of forage are produced annually. Forage production on public lands in Yuma District is less than 1% of the total AUMs produced in the economic study area.

AGRICULTURE

The total value of crops produced by farms in Yuma County was approximately $251.2 million in 1982 (Arizona Crop and Livestock Reporting Service 1983).

TABLE 3-10: EMPLOYMENT AND INCOME BY ECONOMIC SECTOR IN ARIZONA COUNTIES, 1981
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

	Mohave County		Yuma County[a]	
Economic Sector	Percent of Total Employment[b]	Percent of Total Income	Percent of Total Employment[b]	Percent of Total Income
Retail Trade	24	16	16.8	13.2
Services	17.6	15	15.6	15.6
State and Local Gov't	16.6	15.7	11.8	12.8
Agriculture-Ranching	14	4.4	14.7	8

[a]Employment and income data for La Paz County are not shown because La Paz was not formed as a county until 1983 and the data are therefore not available. The 1981 figures for Yuma County include La Paz County.

[b]Both full- and part-time employment are included in these figures.

Source: Regional Economic Information System, Bureau of Economic Analysis, 1983.

Based on an estimated 268,066 acres of irrigated farmlands (Bureau of Census 1981) this amounts to about $900 per acre in revenue for farm operations in Yuma County.

BLM currently authorizes agricultural use on 4,205 acres of public land in Yuma District through 41 leases and permits. Assuming that the per acre value of crop production for Yuma county is representative of the value on public lands, crop production on BLM-administered lands in Yuma District generates approximately $4.53 million in total revenue per year. Based on the total revenue from crop production, BLM estimates that counties in the district realize approximately $79,870 in personal property tax revenue from crop production on public lands.

RECREATION

Recreation and recreation-related activities impact the local and EIS area economies through expenditures for goods and services and ultimately provide personal income and employment. Recreation income is partially reflected in selected services and retail trade sectors of the economy. For purposes of this EIS, five service industries and all or portions of four kinds of retail businesses were used to indicate recreation-related income. The five service industries included were: hotels, motels and motor hotels; sporting and recreation camps; trailering parks and campsites; general automotive repair except diesel; and amusement and recreation services. The retail establishments included in the analysis are: food stores, gasoline service stations, eating and drinking places, and miscellaneous retail stores.

In 1981, retail sales for Yuma and Mohave counties totaled slightly over $803 million (Valley National Bank 1983). The 1981 sales for the services sector were not available but were estimated to be $172.9 million by using the 1977 Arizona Census of Service Industries sales per worker (Bureau of Census 1979a) and indexing this to the change in sales for each retail employee over the period of 1977 to 1981. Total 1981 sales for the retail and services sector were estimated at $975.9 million for the economic study area.

BLM estimates that recreation-related retail and service sector sales for local communities along the Colorado River amounted to $620 million in 1981. To derive this figure, unpublished retail sales data were obtained from the Arizona Department of Revenue for the cities of Yuma, Parker and Kingman, Arizona. The sales for Kingman were subtracted from those for Mohave County in order to estimate retail sales for Bullhead City-Riviera, Lake Havasu City and other developed areas along the river. This figure was then added to the retail sales for Parker and Yuma to obtain a total retail sales estimate for local communities in the study area. Service receipts were estimated by using the ratio of retail to service receipts from Yuma and Mohave Counties.

BLM manages 14 recreation concessions and nine recreation leases on federal lands in Yuma District (see *Appendix H* for a list of these facilities). Total receipts for the concessions amounted to about $5.9 million in 1982. Only two of the nine recreation leases were able to provide BLM with sales data. For these two operations, 1982 receipts amounted to approximately $7.2 million. The $13.1 million for concessions and leases combined represents about 1.3% of the total sales for the retail and service sectors for Yuma and Mohave Counties, and about 2.1% of the estimated retail and service sector sales for local communities in the study area.

A recent study estimated the average daily expenditures (including rent) of winter visitors in the Yuma market area to be $12 per person (Yuma County Chamber of Commerce 1983). There are 922 mobile home sites in the recreation concessions and leases in Yuma District. The occupants of these mobile home sites probably spend approximately the same amount per person per day as estimated in the Chamber of Commerce study.

The two long-term visitor areas in Yuma District receive an average daily use of about 3,800 persons for approximately six months of the year. Using an average daily expenditure of $10 per person (Happel et al. 1983), winter visitors who stay in these long-term visitor areas contribute approximately $6.8 million per year to the local Yuma, Blythe, Ehrenberg and Quartzsite economies.

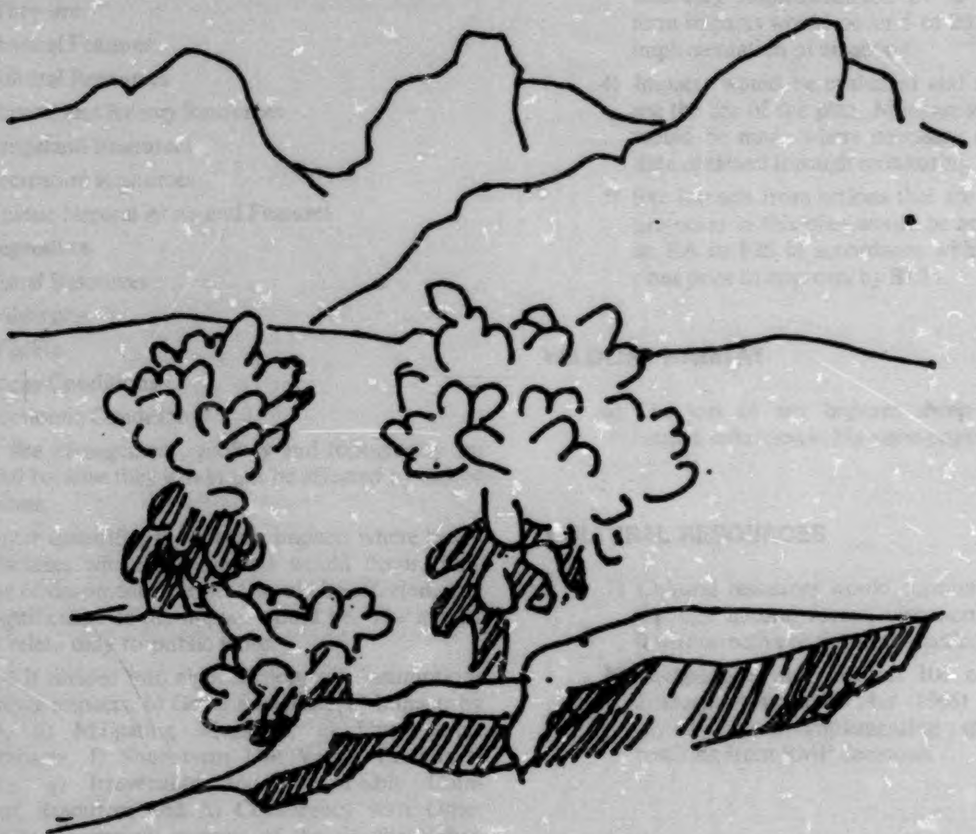
The SCORE Parker 400 race event has drawn an estimated 18,000 spectators and participants in recent years. The total visitor expenditures made in the local economy, including expenditures for test runs by participants, are estimated by BLM to be about $125,000 annually. Most of these expenditures accrue to the local economy.

Significance

An estimated $19.9 million are spent in the retail trade and services sectors as a result of recreation and tourism use on public lands in the district. This is about 2% of the total receipts for these sectors in Yuma and Mohave Counties, or 3.4% of total retail trade and service receipts for the local economies in the district. Based on average annual sales of $50,000 per employee, this translates into about 400 employees and $3.96 million in annual personal income or less than 1% of total employment and income in the study area.

Demand

Prior to 1978, visitor-use data show a relatively steady increase from year-to-year. From 1978 to present, however, use appears to be holding steady, or declining, depending upon the level of aggregation of data. Using a linear trend line and adjusting for inflation, total BLM concession receipts show an average increase of only 0.6% per year between 1978 and 1982. However, a linear trend line for a longer period (1971–1982) indicates an average annual growth of about 2.7%. Using these two estimates as indicators, the projected total growth in recreation use and expenditures for the 20-year period 1986–2005 would be between 12% and 55%. Using projected population growth rates for pertinent Nevada, Arizona and California counties as indicators, the average growth in recreation use and expenditures per year between 1980 and 2000 would be approximately 1.7%; this figure does not include a discount for inflation.



CHAPTER 4

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Introduction

Chapter 4 describes the environmental, social and economic consequences of implementing the six alternatives presented in Chapter 2. The impacts were identified and evaluated by an interdisciplinary team of resource specialists and are presented here by alternative and planning issue for 12 environmental elements (refer to Chapter 3, Affected Environment, for a detailed description of each element). They are:

1) Physical Features
2) Cultural Resources
3) Mineral and Energy Resources
4) Rangeland Resources
5) Recreation Resources
6) Unique Natural Areas and Features
7) Vegetation
8) Visual Resources
9) Wilderness
10) Wildlife
11) Social Conditions
12) Economic Conditions

Climate, fire management, geology and topography are not discussed because they would not be affected by any of the alternatives.

This chapter quantifies the specific impacts where possible and discusses where the impacts would occur, how much of the environmental element would be affected, and what the significance of the impact would be. The impact discussions relate only to public lands.

Chapter 4 is divided into eight sections: a) Assumptions used to analyze impacts, b) General Impacts, c) Impacts by Alternative, d) Mitigating Measures, e) Unavoidable Adverse Impacts, f) Short-term Use Versus Long-term Productivity, g) Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitments of Resources and h) Consistency with Other Plans. The environmental impacts of the six alternatives are summarized at the end of Chapter 2 (Alternatives) in Table 2-12.

Assumptions

The assumptions made for analyzing the impacts of implementing each alternative are listed below.

GENERAL ASSUMPTIONS

1) Each alternative is analyzed as if it were a fully funded plan, with all the personnel required to implement the plan's decisions completely.
2) Implementation of the RMP would begin in 1985.
3) Short-term impacts would be temporary, last less than five years and occur during or immediately following implementation of an action. Long-term impacts would occur 5 to 20 years following implementation of an action.
4) Impacts would be evaluated and monitored during the life of the plan. Management adjustments would be made where necessary on the basis of data obtained through monitoring.
5) Site impacts from actions that are not specifically projected in this plan would be analyzed through an EA or EIS in accordance with NEPA regulations prior to approval by BLM.

WILDLIFE HABITAT

6) The loss of any bighorn sheep habitat would cause a reduction in big game populations.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

7) Cultural resources would continue to deteriorate through natural forces, visitation and vandalism if no corrective or preventive action is taken.
8) Compliance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act* (1966) would be completed before implementing specific projects resulting from RMP decisions.

RANGELAND RESOURCES

9) Current trends in livestock market conditions would continue. Livestock values would therefore remain the same as at present.
10) Assessments of vegetation-related impacts are based on expectations of normal precipitation during the life of the plan.

11) Long-term grazing use levels would be based on monitoring information, including utilization studies and actual use data.

LAND OWNERSHIP ADJUSTMENT

12) All land disposals and acquisitions identified in the alternatives would be completed.
13) Land disposals would occur without stipulations for future management.
14) Fair market value would be received for all public lands sold, leased or otherwise authorized for private use. Land exchanges would involve lands of equal value.
15) Minerals would normally be retained in federal ownership.

RIGHTS-OF-WAY

16) Site-specific impacts from developing facilities in designated corridors or communication sites would be assessed in accordance with NEPA using an EA or EIS process prior to approval by BLM.

RECREATION

17) Visitor use of public lands would continue to increase at present rates. Current types of recreation use would continue in the future unless otherwise stated.

WILDERNESS

18) The twenty-two WSAs would be managed under BLM's Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (IMP) until Congress makes a decision on wilderness designations for the district.

MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES

19) All mineral rights would be retained by the federal government on public lands identified for disposal where valuable minerals are known to occur.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

20) Compliance with Section 7 of the *Endangered Species Act* (1973) would be completed before implementing specific projects resulting from RMP decisions.

ECONOMIC ANALYSIS

21) The average rate for an animal-unit month on non-irrigated privately-owned lands in the 11 Western States is $8.85 (Arizona Crop and Livestock Reporting Service 1984). This value can be used as a proxy for ranch income per AUM on public lands.
22) In land ownership adjustments involving land exchange, both the acreage and the value of lands acquired would be equal to the acreage and the value of lands transferred out of federal ownership.
23) Non-agricultural lands identified for disposal or acquisition have an average market value of $150 per acre.
24) Agricultural use lands identified for disposal have an average market value of $3,000 per acre.

General Impacts

The general impacts described in this section apply to all alternatives and are discussed by resource. These impacts are presented here to avoid repetition under each alternative. The discussion of impacts from specific alternatives makes frequent reference to this section.

GENERAL IMPACTS ON PHYSICAL FEATURES

Water

Water quality and quantity in Yuma District would not be noticeably affected by any of the alternatives.

Air Quality

Agricultural activity creates localized negative impacts on air quality in the form of airborne dust particles. When compared to total land area being farmed, however, the air quality impacts resulting from agricultural activity on public lands are few and therefore negligible.

Surface-disturbing activities associated with the development and use of recreation facilities, utility corridors and ORVs have potential for localized short-term air quality impacts in the form of airborne dust particles. These impacts would be relatively minor in significance under all alternatives.

Soils

Impacts on soils from grazing actions would be evaluated under the rangeland monitoring program described in Chapter 2. Subsequent mitigating measures would be applied as appropriate.

Adverse impacts on soils from agricultural use of BLM-administered lands would be negligible under all alternatives.

Soil surface disturbance from construction of recreation facilities would be short-term and local in nature, and therefore negligible.

Construction of new transmission and communication facilities in designated utility corridors and communication sites could adversely impact soils.

GENERAL IMPACTS ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

Site disturbance by artifact removal, rearrangement or destruction results in an irreplaceable loss of scientific knowledge important for the reconstruction of the past. The complex association between artifacts, architectural features and environmental data are critical to the scientific study of cultural resources. Some artifacts or features have intrinsic values, but their original position within a site and their association to the environment define the significance of the resource.

Any land-use activity which would disturb the ground surface or subsurface has the potential to negatively affect cultural resources present in the area of the disturbance. Table 4-1 lists the types of activities that would occur in the district and have adverse effects on cultural resources.

Restrictions on land-use activities or designations that protect or regulate certain resource activities, i.e., priority wildlife habitat, special management areas, wilderness and ORV designations, would serve directly or indirectly to preserve cultural resources within the protected area. The type of impact also varies with the type of cultural resource involved. Cultural resource site types present in the Yuma District are listed in Chapter 3.

From Wildlife Habitat. Cultural resources within priority wildlife habitat areas would be indirectly protected by limiting allowable uses to those that are compatible with wildlife values. With the exception of mining, uses potentially harmful to cultural resources would be prohibited in these areas, including most ground-disturbing activities and open-intensive use.

TABLE 4-1: MAJOR ACTIONS ADVERSELY AFFECTING CULTURAL RESOURCES
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Authorized Actions	Unauthorized Activities
Land disposals	Vandalism and theft
Utility line construction	Unrestricted random ORV traffic
Road construction	Mining trespass and occupancy trespass
ORV competitive events	
Mining-related activities	
Cattle grazing and trampling	
Range and habitat improvements	
Winter visitor camping (La Posa Plain)	
Concessions expansion	
Materials sales	
Communication facility construction	

Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1984.

Construction of habitat improvements such as game watering facilities, fences or access roads could negatively affect cultural resources.

From Special Management Areas. Cultural resources within designated special management areas or areas managed for the protection of scenic and natural values (see Table 4-2) would be indirectly protected by limitations placed on ground-disturbing uses and development in these areas.

From Grazing. The following actions could negatively affect cultural resources: cattle grazing and trampling in or around food, water and shade sources; constructing rangeland developments such as fences, wells and tanks; and constructing access roads.

From Land Ownership Adjustments. Transferring lands out of federal ownership would result in loss of protection under various federal laws and regulations for any cultural resources located on these lands.

Cultural resources on lands acquired and brought into federal ownership would be protected in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act and other applicable legislation.

From Rights-of-Way. Construction of new facilities in utility corridors and communication sites, such as tower or antenna pads, access roads, generator or substations, and ancillary construction sites, could negatively affect cultural resources on these sites.

Native American sacred or spiritual areas associated with mountain peaks are particularly sensitive to communication site development.

TABLE 4-2: CULTURAL RESOURCES IN PROPOSED SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

SMA Name	Alternatives Protecting SMAs	Areas of Known Cultural Resources on SMAs	Types of Cultural Resources
Big Marias	A&P C D E	5,250*	Intaglios, petroglyphs, ceremonial areas
Laguna-Martinez	C D E	500	Sleeping circles, petroglyphs, trails
Whipple Mountains	P A C D E	2,000	Rock shelters, petroglyphs, trails, rock rings
Muggins Mountains	P B C D E	1,300	Sleeping circles (villages) and intaglios
Milpitas Wash	P C D E	1,000	Sleeping circles (villages)
La Posa Plain	A C D E	200	Petroglyphs, hunting campsites
TOTAL		10,250	

* 1,250 acres of the Big Marias complex are protected under management prescriptions for cultural resources as well. Thus the total area protected by special management area status is reduced by this amount in the summary of impacts.
** Preferred Alternative
Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1984.

GENERAL IMPACTS ON MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES

From Special Management Areas. Closing special management areas and cultural resource sites to surface occupancy for oil and gas operations would have an adverse impact on energy exploration and development. Use of this stipulation would effectively remove large areas from leasing because exploratory drilling would be limited. Both vertical and directional drilling would have to be done at the boundary of the areas where the stipulation is applied, allowing for exploration of only a small portion of those areas. When vertical drilling is used, a hole drilled at the boundary could explore about 25,000 acres or a radius of 3.5 miles beyond that boundary. Directional drilling would slightly increase this range (dependent on variables such as drilling angle and hole depth), but could also result in increased maintenance costs due to unstable holes and equipment wear. These higher costs are reflected in shorter well life and decreased recovery of resources. As a result, large areas where this stipulation is applied would probably not be leased or explored.

The adverse impact from the no surface occupancy stipulation would be moderate because: a) the overall oil and gas potential of the district is considered zero to low by the U.S. Geological Survey, b) little exploration and no oil and gas production presently occurs in the district and c) the stipulation would not be applied to areas in the Gila Trough and Yuma Basin, which are the most likely prospects for discovery.

From Land Ownership Adjustment. Beneficial impacts on mineral and energy development would result from opening acquired state and private lands to entry under the General Mining Law of 1872, as amended.

Lands acquired for wilderness purposes would be closed to mineral entry and leasing. This would adversely impact mineral and energy development because lands currently open to mineral entry and leasing would be exchanged for lands closed to these activities.

With the exception of Disposal Area 3, all of the lands that would be disposed of through exchange include lands classified as prospectively valuable for oil and gas, either because they are within the extrapolated boundaries of the overthrust belt or they are in the Yuma Basin or the Gila Trough. Disposal Areas 5 and 7 (6,920 acres) also contain common varieties of sand and gravel useful for construction.

GENERAL IMPACTS ON RANGELAND RESOURCES

From Wildlife Habitat. Managing areas as priority wildlife habitat would not conflict with rangeland production under any of the alternatives. Only one "I" allotment (Ganado) would coincide with priority wildlife habitat. The northern portion (approximately 40,000 acres or 43%) of the Ganado allotment lies in the Buckskin Mountains. Ephemeral in nature, this portion of the allotment is grazed only during years when annual forage is abundant.

Maintaining bighorn sheep habitat in the Mohave Mountains would not conflict with rangeland production on the Crossman Peak and Havasu Mountains North allotments. These allotments are both in the "C" (custodial) category and are managed under the special ephemeral rule published in the Federal Register in December 1968. Accordingly, grazing takes place only when there is a probability of adequate annual forage for livestock grazing.

From Land Ownership Adjustments. Disposing of public lands would not significantly impact rangeland production on the ephemeral or "C" allotments that coincide with disposal areas. These ephemeral lands would continue to be managed under the special ephemeral rule published in the *Federal Register* on December 7, 1968.

From Recreation. ORV use designations that close areas would benefit grazing allotments by protecting rangeland developments from vandalism associated with unrestricted ORV use.

GENERAL IMPACTS ON RECREATION RESOURCES

From Special Management Areas. The designation of special management areas or protective management of important cultural and natural values would maintain primitive and semi-primitive non-motorized recreation opportunities at current levels by restricting development and ORV use in these areas. Conversely, semi-primitive motorized and roaded-natural opportunities would be lost as a result of such management.

From Land Ownership Adjustment. With the exception of Pittsburg Point, which annually receives 800,000 visitor days of recreation use, current recreational use on lands identified for disposal or acquisition under all alternatives

is low. Consequently, the impacts on recreation resources from disposal or acquisition of these lands would be negligible.

GENERAL IMPACTS ON NATURAL AREAS AND FEATURES

From Wildlife Habitat. The management of areas for priority wildlife habitat would benefit any coinciding unique natural areas and features by helping to maintain environmental conditions in a natural state.

From Grazing. Adverse impacts from perennial-ephemeral (P-E) grazing would occur on the La Posa Plain and Cactus Plain. These areas are significant due to their unique landforms and associated vegetation communities that are essentially in a climax state (see *Glossary*). Continued grazing at any level could cause shifts in vegetation composition to the detriment of the native plant community, and could cause erosion on the stabilized sand dune sites. Current impacts on these vegetation communities are localized due to poor livestock use distribution caused by restricted water sources. Approximately 21,000 acres or 6% of the Ganado, Muse and Nine-Mile allotments are in poor to fair range condition. These impacts include changes in species composition, plant density, soil cover and increased soil erosion.

From Recreation. ORV closures or limited use designations that coincide with any unique natural areas and features would benefit these resources by protecting soils, vegetation and wildlife from disruption.

GENERAL IMPACTS ON VEGETATION

From Wildlife Habitat. Managing public lands as priority wildlife habitat would help maintain upland and riparian vegetation in these areas by such actions as limiting ORV use to existing roads, restricting development, and retaining all federal lands in these areas.

From Special Management Areas. Vegetation in special management areas or areas managed for protection of scenic and natural values would be protected by restrictions on ORVs, utility rights-of-way, recreation and agricultural development, and other potential surface-disturbing uses in these areas.

From Grazing. Vegetative conditions on ephemeral allotments would not sharply change from grazing under any of the alternatives. These allotments would be grazed infrequently when ephemeral forage is abundant following above normal precipitation. Vegetation would be subjected to short-term negative impacts from construction of rangeland developments and temporary access trails or roads.

From Rights-of-Way. Vegetation would be subjected to short-term negative impacts from activities such as road construction, off-road use and pad construction during the construction of new facilities in designated utility corridors and communication sites.

From Recreation. ORV closures or limited use designations would benefit vegetation in Yuma District by restricting surface disturbances associated with ORV use.

GENERAL IMPACTS ON VISUAL RESOURCES

From Wildlife Habitat. The management of areas for riparian and bighorn sheep habitat would protect visual resources through such actions as prohibiting sand and gravel leases, confining utilities to designated corridors and limiting ORV use to existing roads and trails.

Visual resource management (VRM) classes in areas proposed for priority wildlife habitat management are shown in Table 4-4 (see Chapter 3 for an explanation of VRM classes and their respective management guidelines).

Wildlife habitat management actions taken to restore vegetation would improve scenic quality in the long term by enhancing the vegetative component of the landscape.

TABLE 4-4: VRM CLASSES ON PUBLIC LANDS
MANAGED FOR WILDLIFE HABITAT
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Habitat Type	VRM Class	Preferred	Approximate Acres Under Each Alternative				
			A	B	C	D	E
Riparian	II	23,100	23,100	0	23,100	23,100	23,100
Bighorn Sheep	II	117,840	88,900	0	6,600	117,840	148,720
	III	52,200	26,900	0	9,640	52,200	57,640
	IV	54,600	44,840	0	2,500	54,600	56,040
Total Priority Habitat		247,740	183,740	0	41,840	247,740	285,500

Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1984.

Wildlife habitat improvements such as water catchments and nesting structures would have negligible impacts on visual resources, as they would be designed and constructed in accordance with BLM's visual resource management guidelines.

From Special Management Areas. Visual resources in designated special management areas or areas managed for protection of scenic and natural values would be protected, as uses in these areas would generally be restricted to compatible activities or those uses whose impacts could be mitigated to preserve or enhance recognized values.

Visual resource management classes in areas proposed for special management area designation or management for protection of scenic and natural values are shown in Table 4-5.

From Grazing. Proposed rangeland developments would not have an adverse effect on visual resources. All proposed rangeland developments are located in VRM Class III landscapes, and would therefore be compatible with the visual resource management guidelines for this class.

From Rights-of-Way. Adverse impacts to visual resources could result from developing new facilities in designated utility corridors or communication sites. The significance of these impacts from new facilities would depend on: a) the number and type of utilities already existing in the corridor or site and b) the size and type of facility proposed.

Visual resource management classes within designated utility corridors are shown in Table 4-6, while classes within designated communication sites are shown in Table 4-7.

Visual resources in presently unimpacted areas would benefit from the restriction of new utility and communication facilities to designated corridors and sites.

From Recreation. Visual resources on the majority of the district would benefit from accommodating long-term camping in two LTVAs. This intensive use and its impacts would be limited to about 1% of the district and involve 10,920 acres of Class II and 3,260 acres of Class III lands. Campers' vehicles impact the landscape by scarring fragile desert soils or pavements and damaging vegetation.

TABLE 4-5: VRM CLASSES IN PROPOSED
SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

	Approximate Acres Under Each Alternative					
VRM Class	Preferred	A	B	C	D	E
II	65,493	42,569	46,634	82,452	82,452	87,068
III	87,046	74,200	65,469	85,780	85,780	96,380
IV	34,526	42,781	4,492	46,648	46,648	73,212
Total SMA Acreage	187,065	159,550	116,595	214,880	214,880	256,660

Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1985.

TABLE 4-6: VRM CLASSES IN PROPOSED UTILITY CORRIDORS
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

VRM	Approximate Acres Under Each Alternative					
Class	Preferred	A	B	C	D	E
II	16,640	19,840	None	17,280	17,280	17,280
III	86,400	61,440	None	84,480	84,480	84,480
IV	89,600	58,880	None	89,600	90,880	90,880
Total Corridor Acreage	192,640	140,160	0	191,360	192,640	192,640

Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1984.

TABLE 4-7: VRM CLASSES IN PROPOSED COMMUNICATION SITES
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

VRM Class	Number of Sites Under Each Alternative					
	Preferred	A	B	C	D	E
II	4	3	None	4	3	3
III	4	4	None	4	3	3
IV	1	None	None	1	None	None

Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1984.

Closing some areas to ORV use and restricting use to designated roads and trails in others would help maintain existing scenic quality by protecting the landscape's soil and vegetation from disruption.

GENERAL IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS

From Special Management Areas. Special management area provisions would either discourage or mitigate activities that could adversely impact the wilderness characteristics of naturalness and solitude in WSAs. Surface occupancy for oil and gas leases would not be allowed, nor sales of sand or gravel. Off-road vehicles would be restricted to roads and trails. These actions would help prevent surface-disturbing activities, thereby protecting naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation in WSAs. WSAs that would receive special management area protection are shown in Table 4-8.

From Recreation. The Interim Management Policy requires that off-road vehicle use in all 22 WSAs be limited to existing roads and trails except where more stringent designations apply. This action is to help to protect wilderness values by preventing or slowing down the creation of new vehicle use and thus to reduce soil disturbance and erosion, vegetation damage, wildlife habitat changes and archeologic site disturbances that impact wilderness qualities of naturalness and solitude.

GENERAL IMPACTS ON WILDLIFE

From Wildlife Habitat. Priority management of aquatic and riparian wildlife habitat would provide long-term benefits for wildlife by maintaining habitat conditions at current levels, given no future loss of riparian habitat on adjacent lands outside of the public domain.

Priority management of riparian habitat would help to sustain the population of the Yuma clapper rail, a federally-listed endangered bird species, at its present level of approximately 700-800 birds on the district.

Priority management of terrestrial wildlife habitat would provide long-term benefits for wildlife in the Yuma District by protecting habitat conditions on certain key areas. Management of bighorn sheep yearlong-use areas as priority wildlife habitat would benefit bighorn sheep through protection of habitat needs for cover, forage, water and space. Management of migration routes as priority wildlife habitat would benefit bighorn sheep and mule deer by continuing to allow normal movement patterns. Seasonal closure of roads during the bighorn lambing period (1/1 to 6/30) would benefit sheep reproduction by reducing access and thereby harassment of pregnant ewes and ewes with young lambs. The increased emphasis on priority wildlife habitat areas would also benefit other wildlife species such as predators, raptors and non-game species (see *Appendix F-2* for a partial list of wildlife species in the Yuma District).

From Special Management Areas. The designation of special management areas or management of areas for protection of scenic and natural areas would have beneficial impacts on wildlife. As a result of protective management, plant growth and species diversity on these areas would be maintained or improved. Habitat conditions would also improve, providing increased cover and forage for the wildlife species that use these areas. Although some wildlife species would be expected to increase on some of the areas due to stabilized or improved habitat conditions, present knowledge is insufficient to predict species responses.

From Land Ownership Adjustments. Because of location, mixed ownership patterns, the types of use on adjacent lands and marginal habitat quality, disposal of **49,745** acres in Areas 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 **and 12** would have negligible impacts on wildlife.

From Rights-of-Way. Designating utility corridors and communication sites would generally have minimal adverse impacts on wildlife populations. While negative impacts to resident wildlife within the boundaries of corridors and sites could be extensive, designation would generally benefit wildlife by restricting environmental impacts from new utility and communication site construction to localized areas. Designated corridors usually follow existing rights-of-way such as highways, powerlines and pipelines, where impacts to wildlife have already occurred. Designated communication sites also involve areas with existing facilities, where impacts to wildlife have already occurred.

From Recreation. Concentrating winter visitor use in two designated long-term visitor areas (LTVAs) totaling about **14,180** acres would confine adverse impacts to wildlife from this use to **about 1%** of the district. Loss of plant cover and therefore wildlife habitat would occur on part of these localized areas due to over-collection of firewood, soil compaction in some areas and increased erosion in others. **The parts of the LTVA with critical wildlife habitat would be closed to concentrated recreation use to minimize the impact of this designation on wildlife.** Most LTVAs are on desert pavement or on foothills above riparian zones, thus minimizing impacts on wildlife in these areas (USDI, BLM 1983a).

Generally, long-term beneficial impacts would accrue to wildlife from ORV use designations that close areas or limit use to existing roads and trails and designated roads and trails. These designations would help to control losses of wildlife habitat due to ORV-related soil erosion, vegetation destruction and animal harassment.

GENERAL IMPACTS ON SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Population Trends. Population projections for permanent residents of the region in and adjacent to the Yuma District would not be noticeably affected by the implementation of any of the RMP alternatives.

While reductions in the amount and number of space and facilities in BLM-managed public land camping and concession areas would affect winter visitor totals at specific sites, the implementation of any of the RMP alternatives would not reduce or increase total winter visitor numbers in the region.

Social Attitudes. Each of the RMP alternatives has its proponents and opponents. Some individuals and groups have expressed strong convictions in favor of, or against, implementation decisions.

The attitudes of these people are unlikely to be significantly changed or impacted by the implementation of any of the alternatives. For example, those who currently favor the specific management provisions of the BLM preferred alternative would be encouraged by a decision to implement it. Those who, for various reasons, presently oppose any or all of the specific management provisions would be discouraged by a decision to implement the preferred alternative.

Native Americans. Implementation of any of the RMP alternatives would not cause significant adverse impacts to Native Americans living in the region in and adjacent to the Yuma District.

GENERAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS

From Grazing. Economic impacts from rangeland production on the planning region as a whole would be negligible under all RMP alternatives. Public lands in the Yuma District account for less than 1% of the total livestock grazing activity in Yuma, La Paz and Mohave Counties.

From Land Ownership Adjustments. The disposal of non-irrigated public lands would generate only minor economic impacts.

Any sale of public lands would increase local county tax revenues by increasing the private land base. However, these increases would be partially offset by a reduction in federal government in-lieu-of-tax payments to counties.

Exchange of federal land for state or private land would affect local economies only when the exchanges are made across county boundaries. An exchange of federal for private lands across county boundaries would result in a redistribution of dollars by increasing the tax base or in-lieu payments in one county while reducing them in the second county. A similar exchange for state lands would affect only the in-lieu tax payments, since the state does not pay taxes.

Public land transfers to local governmental entities for public purposes would result in a reduction of in-lieu payments to counties.

Impacts of the Preferred Alternative

In addition to the impacts discussed below, refer to the general impacts section relating to each resource for environmental consequences that apply to all alternatives.

IMPACTS ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

From Wildlife Habitat. Priority wildlife habitat areas identified under the *Preferred Alternative* include approximately 247,740 acres. Of these acres, approximately 1% (2,700 acres) coincide with areas of known high or moderate cultural resource sensitivity. These acres represent about 5% of the total area (about 37,000 acres) of known high and moderate cultural resource sensitivity within the district.

Important cultural resources known to occur in priority wildlife habitat areas include two aboriginal villages, one intaglio and one petroglyph complex. These specific cultural resources encompass approximately 300 acres of proposed priority wildlife habitat under this alternative. These resources would receive indirect protection from priority wildlife habitat management as described in *General Impacts on Cultural Resources.*

From Special Management Areas. Under the *Preferred Alternative*, 33 cultural resource sites and areas totaling approximately 6,800 acres would be protected in place through restricting ground-disturbing uses and applying appropriate physical and administrative measures such as fencing, ORV closure and classification for retention in public ownership. On the basis of BLM data and the criteria described in *Appendix J*, these cultural resource areas are considered to be the most important known sites in the district. The areas include petroglyphs, villages, intaglio complexes and other resources of high value.

Managing 187,065 acres for protection of natural values would indirectly protect cultural resources on about 9,980 acres of public lands with high and moderate cultural resource sensitivity (see Table 4-2 and *General Impacts on Cultural Resources*). This represents about 18% of the total known high and moderate cultural resource sensitivity areas in the district. Important cultural resources that would be protected in these areas include petroglyphs, villages and intaglios.

From Grazing. Of 14 grazing allotments in the Yuma District, only the Ganado allotment coincides with an area of known cultural resource sensitivity. That portion of the allotment located in Osborne Wash — 5,000 acres or 5% of the allotment — contains known cultural resources.

Important cultural resources in the Ganado allotment include a series of aboriginal habitation units, a campsite associated with a natural water hole and two intaglio complexes. The intaglios are enclosed by fences to keep cattle and ORV traffic off the sites. However, the cattle do get into the enclosures and have difficulty finding their way back through the fence to the open range. Consequently, damage to intaglios from livestock trampling is heightened by presence of the fence and would continue to occur under this alternative. Other cultural resources on the Ganado allotment would continue to be negatively affected by livestock trampling.

From Land Ownership Adjustments. Of the land areas identified within the Yuma District for disposal, only Areas 5 and 7, north of Interstate 40, contain cultural resource values of any significance. A complex San Dieguito culture campsite is in Area 5, and an extensive macro-flake metate manufacturing area is located in Area 7.

Disposal of Areas 5 and 7 from federal ownership could adversely affect these cultural resources by removing them from protection under the *National Historic Preservation Act* (NHPA).

From Rights-of-Way. Designated corridors under the *Preferred Alternative* include approximately 192,000 acres. Of these acres, approximately 300 acres contain known areas of high or moderate cultural resource sensitivity.

The Mystic Maze Intaglio is within the Interstate 40 corridor near Topock, Arizona and could be adversely impacted by the construction of new facilities. **Another important cultural resource site, within the Parker-Blaisdell utility corridor (UC-6B) near Crossroads, California, could also be adversely impacted by the construction of new facilities. No other portions of the corridors have known cultural resources.**

Black Peak, southeast of Parker, Arizona, **and the Big Maria site north of Blythe, California, are the only communication sites with known cultural values.** The Mohave Indian people of Colorado River Indian Tribes consider Black Peak **and the Big Maria site area to be sacred areas** and have expressed concern that communication facilities in these localities would interfere with the spiritual value of the peaks and nearby cultural resource areas.

From Recreation. The La Posa Plain LTVA is considered to have moderate cultural resource sensitivity. The primary cultural resources known within the LTVA are campsites and trails dated to early aboriginal periods.

Concentrating long-term camping in LTVAs would increase the possibility of negative impacts on cultural resources in the La Posa Plain area. However, these impacts would be offset by the elimination of long-term camping elsewhere in the district. Cultural resources outside of LTVAs would be protected from the effects of long-term camping.

Under the *Preferred Alternative*, 22,420 acres would be designated as "closed" to ORV use thereby keeping surface disturbing ORV traffic out of important cultural resource areas in the district. These areas include the Blythe, Ripley, and parts of the Big Maria intaglio complexes, which, by their nature, are particularly susceptible to damage from ORVs.

Areas designated as "open" to ORV use under this alternative contain no significant cultural resources. Portions of the Parker 400 course cross the Osborne Wash area, which contains approximately 5,000 acres of known high or moderate cultural resource sensitivity. Competitive ORV events held on the course would have a degrading effect on cultural resources in this area. A series of aboriginal habitation units, a campsite associated with a natural water hole, and two intaglio complexes would be threatened by uncontrolled spectator traffic and activity.

Conclusion. Under the *Preferred Alternative*, about 17,200 acres or 30% of the total area of known high and moderate cultural resources sensitivity would receive direct and indirect protection from priority wildlife habitat and special management area actions.

The grazing, land ownership adjustment, rights-of-way and recreation provisions would have adverse impacts on cultural resources in the district. Proposed grazing use would negatively impact known cultural resources in the Ganado allotment. Disposal of Areas 5 and 7 could adversely affect known cultural resources in these areas. Impacts to the Mystic Maze intaglio could result from construction in the proposed Interstate 40 corridor. **Impacts to another important cultural resource site could result from construction in utility corridor UC-6B.** New facility development on the Black Peak and Big Maria communication sites would conflict with the spiritual values of Native American sacred areas.

Recreation provisions in the *Preferred Alternative* would have varied impacts. Damage to cultural resources may occur as a result of concentrating long-term campers in the La Posa Plain LTVA. However, this damage would be offset by positive effects of eliminating this use elsewhere in the district.

Important cultural resource areas would be protected by the designation of 22,420 acres as "closed" to ORV use. Spectators at races on the Parker 400 course would subject known cultural resources on 5,000 acres to damage from surface disturbing activities or loss as a result of vandalism.

IMPACTS ON MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES

From Wildlife Habitat. The no-surface-occupancy stipulation on new oil and gas leases in the 11,100 acres (less than 1% of the planning area) of bighorn sheep lambing grounds would not be expected to impede energy exploration and development because: a) the lambing grounds generally consist of small tracts seldom exceeding one mile in width, b) they are located along ridges where surface occupancy would be difficult and c) the overall oil and gas potential for the district is estimated by the U.S. Geological Survey to be zero to low (Ryder 1983).

Exploration for other minerals would be impeded because roads traversing the lambing grounds, which include lands with high mineral potential, would be closed for six months out of the year. Development, however, would not be impacted because mining on the approximately 50 mining claims that currently exist on the lambing grounds, as well as the mining of any new deposits which would be discovered, would be allowed. In summary, the impacts from this action would be negligible.

From Special Management Areas. Managing 33 sites and areas for the protection of cultural resources could adversely affect mineral and energy development by constraining or discouraging future exploration and development activities on 6,800 acres. Approximately 6,000 acres (88%) of these lands are already under Bureau of Reclamation withdrawals. Four of the sites that are not already on withdrawn lands — Swansea, Arrastra Canyon, Tule Springs and Screwbean Springs — are in areas that are favorable for the discovery of economic locatable mineral deposits. These sites encompass a cumulative 175 acres. Anticipated impacts to locatable mineral activity are considered to be negligible because: a) a significant portion of the cultural site acreage is already withdrawn from mineral entry and b) a relatively small acreage of the sites are located in areas with favorable mineral potential.

Impacts from the no-surface-occupancy provision of the proposed Big Marias ACEC are considered negligible because of the district's overall low potential for oil and gas. The proposed Big Marias ACEC is currently under a Bureau of Reclamation withdrawal; therefore, new impacts to locatable minerals activity from the proposed designation are not anticipated.

Conclusion. The *Preferred Alternative* would preclude mineral entry, leasing and development on 6,800 acres (less than 1% of the planning area; 6,000 of these acres are already closed to mineral entry by an existing withdrawal). Exploration would be precluded on a seasonal basis on 11,100 acres (less than 1% of the planning area). The no-surface-occupancy stipulation could be applied to 17,900 acres (1.6%) of the lands that would be available for oil and gas leasing. On the basis of the acreage involved and on the estimated mineral potentials of the areas that would be affected, the anticipated impacts of this alternative would be negligible.

TABLE 4-8: SPECIAL MANAGEMENT IN WSAs
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

WSA	SMA Acreage (Alternatives)[a]	Percent of WSA Protected
Crossman Peak	26,000 (P-B-C-D-E)	36.5
Mohave Wash	20,000 (P-A-E)	1
Whipple Mountains	15,120 (P-A-C-D-E)	100
Gibraltar Mtn.	25,260 (P-C-D-E)	100
Planet Peak	17,260 (A-E)	66
Cactus Plain	84,095 (C-D-E)	100
Cactus Plain	76,060 (P-B)	95
Swansea	24,940 (C-D-E)	29
E. Cactus Plain	84,095 (C-D-E)	100
E. Cactus Plain	76,060 (P-B)	100
Big Maria Mts. Southern Addn.	5,280 (P-C-D-E)	100
Muggins Mtns.	14,455 (P-B-C-D-E)	100

[a] Alternatives in which special management or SMA designation would be applied.

Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1984.

IMPACTS ON RANGELAND RESOURCES

From Special Management Areas. Managing the 76,060-acre Cactus Plain area under special prescriptions to protect its natural values could negatively impact rangeland production on two "I" allotments (Ganado and Nine-Mile) by restricting this use to present levels. Potential long-term increases in livestock use (about 2,400 AUMs) and the construction of new rangeland developments could be precluded within the area.

From Grazing. Under the *Preferred Alternative*, grazing would be authorized at the present stocking rate of 3,998 AUMs on the four perennial-ephemeral allotments (366,660 public land acres) in the district. Adjustments to the authorized grazing preference would be made only when monitoring studies show they are needed to meet resource management objectives. Table 2-2 shows stocking rates for P-E allotments in this alternative.

In the long term a grazing capacity for approximately 3,756 additional AUMs would result from implementing allotment management plans on the two "I" allotments (Nine-Mile and Ganado). These two allotments would shift from continuous grazing to grazing systems which require greater concentration of grazing under a rotation schedule on smaller portions of the allotment. In addition, a seasonal increase in grazing would be authorized to efficiently harvest galleta grass when it is palatable. New areas would be opened to grazing use by the construction of new rangeland developments while livestock pressures in overgrazed areas would be reduced due to proper stocking levels, improved livestock distribution and more uniform utilization of the entire pasture. The two areas with historical grazing use (Bouse Wash in Nine-Mile and Osborne Wash in the Ganado allotment) would be allowed to rest at critical growth periods to allow for reproduction and seeding establishment. As a result, vegetation cover of key forage species would improve.

From Land Ownership Adjustment. Disposal of Areas 11 and 12 would exclude approximately 11,230 acres in the Nine-Mile Allotment from grazing. The loss of these lands would not impact present livestock use (600 AUMs) in the short term. However, potential production of approximately 1,000 AUMs on these lands would be foregone in the long term.

Acquiring 24,468 acres of non-federal lands on ephemeral or "C" allotments would not impact livestock grazing management. Acquiring 6,400 acres of non-federal land on two P-E allotments would enhance BLM's ability to administer grazing and control the placement of new rangeland developments.

From Recreation. Rangeland production along Osborne Wash in the Ganado allotment would be negatively impacted during races on the Parker 400 course. Large numbers of spectators and vehicles would congregate along the washes during the race, disrupting grazing and subjecting livestock to harassment. Fences, windmills and corrals would be targets for vandalism.

Conclusion. As a result of implementing the *Preferred Alternative's* grazing management provisions, long-term grazing capacity would be increased by 3,756 AUMs and the vegetation cover of key forage species would improve. However, special management area restrictions on the Cactus Plain and land disposals could preclude future increases in livestock use of up to 3,400 AUMs under this alternative, leaving a net increase of only 356 AUMs. Special management area restrictions could also restrict new range improvements in the allotments.

Adverse impacts on rangeland production would result from activities associated with races held on the Parker 400 course.

Beneficial impacts on rangeland production would also result from the acquisition of 6,400 acres of non-federal land on two "I" allotments.

IMPACTS ON RECREATION RESOURCES

From Wildlife Habitat. Under the *Preferred Alternative,* riparian areas would be managed as priority wildlife habitat. This action could result in a loss of recreation opportunities in the long term by precluding recreation development such as boat ramps, beaches, campgrounds and access on 23,100 acres along the Colorado River when and where demand for such opportunities arises.

Managing 247,740 acres as priority wildlife habitat would help to maintain present opportunities for fishermen and small game recreational hunters as well as the number of big game hunting permits issued annually for lands in the district.

From Special Management Areas. The *Preferred Alternative's* provisions for special management areas would restrict development and limit ORV use to existing roads and trails on 187,065 acres in eight areas. Although this action would ensure opportunities for semi-primitive non-motorized and primitive types of recreation (see *Appendix I*) on 15% of the district (see *General Impacts on Recreation Resources*), recreation use rarely occurs on these areas at present.

From Land Ownership Adjustment. In the short term, impacts on recreation resources from land disposals and acquisitions under the *Preferred Alternative* would be minor provided that existing leases on lands identified for disposal remain in effect following transfer.

Transfer of Disposal Area 10 to Arizona could have an adverse impact on opportunities for developed, water-based recreational use along the Colorado River in the long term. If the land is transferred to the State of Arizona, then the area could be developed for land uses other than recreation. If such development occurs, it would eliminate, reduce or modify the opportunities for recreation use. The extent to which present recreational opportunities would be lost or modified is not known at this time.

From Rights-of-Way. In the long term, new utility facilities within the Parker-Blaisdell corridor could displace winter visitors on all or part of approximately 1,900 acres at the La Posa Long-Term Visitor Area.

From Recreation. Implementing the recreation provisions of the *Preferred Alternative* would have varied impacts upon the recreation resource.

Resource-based recreational opportunities along the Colorado River would increase as a result of allowing concessions and leases to expand to adjacent public lands as the demand warrants. BLM data show that visitor use at concessions has increased at a rate of 1% annually. Assuming this trend continues, allowing concessions and leases to expand would be a beneficial action that provides for adequate land resources to accommodate growth in recreational demand.

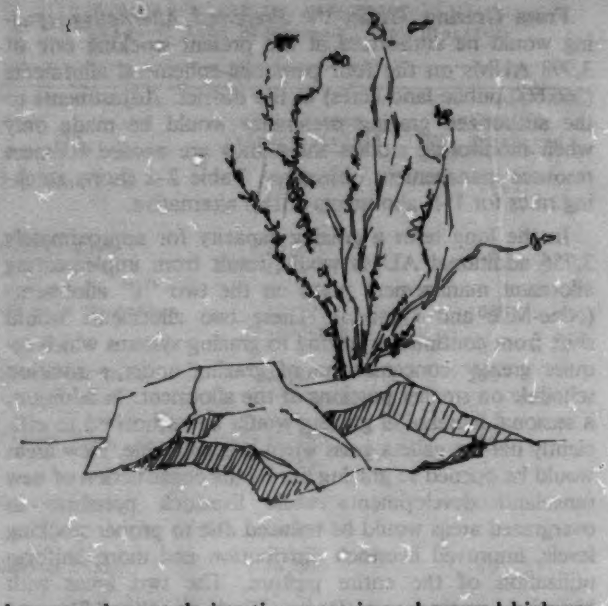
Along the Parker Strip, overnight occupancy rates could decline in the short term as a result of moving RV sites and campsites to less desirable areas away from the river. However, short-term losses would be offset by increased occupancy rates over the long term. By moving overnight facilities out of the floodplain, access to river frontage will be available to greater numbers of recreationists. As more people take advantage of the increased opportunity for riverfront recreation, the demand for overnight accommodations would likely increase as well. Accordingly, recreation use and receipts are expected to increase rather than decrease over the long term. However, insufficient data are available for estimating and projecting actual changes in recreation user numbers or receipts.

ORV use designations in the *Preferred Alternative* would concentrate open-intensive ORV use on 640 acres of public land near the Parker Strip. Present high use areas along the Parker Strip (7,000 acres), Oxbow Lake (6,000 acres), Senator Wash (2,000 acres) and Jack Rabbit Pass (120 acres) would be restricted to ORV use on existing roads and trails only. This action would eliminate open-intensive use opportunities on 96% of public lands that are presently used frequently for this purpose. Crowded conditions and overuse of the 640 acres of open-intensive use areas would result.

Under the wood collection provisions of the *Preferred Alternative*, recreationists would be permitted to collect dead and detached firewood in the vicinity of their campsites. In the long term, however, opportunities for visitors to enjoy campfires and gather wood for hobby purposes would dwindle as existing supplies of wood resources are exhausted. The attractiveness of present recreation use areas would gradually decline. These impacts would be most severe at the La Posa Long Term Visitor Area and near Senator Wash Reservoir (Imperial Dam LTVA) unless these areas are identified in recreation activity plans as non-collection areas.

Conclusion. Under the *Preferred Alternative*, riverfront recreation opportunities would increase as a result of: a) allowing recreation concessions and leases to expand onto additional BLM-administered lands, and b) removing overnight recreation facilities from the floodplain and riverfront along Parker Strip. Loss of potential riverfront recreation opportunities from riparian habitat management would be more than offset by these gains.

The demand for authorized open-intensive ORV use opportunities would continue to go unmet. Conflicts between ORV use and other recreation activities would be avoided, however, by not designating areas in and around high-use camping areas as open.



Potential losses in developed water-based recreation opportunities could result if Pittsburg Point is transferred to the State of Arizona.

Potential losses in long-term camping opportunities would result from locating new transmission lines in the Parker-Blaisdell corridor.

IMPACTS ON NATURAL AREAS AND FEATURES

From Wildlife Habitat. Under the *Preferred Alternative*, four natural areas would benefit from priority wildlife habitat management (see *General Impacts on Natural Areas and Features*). Aubrey Hills (13,440 acres), Whipple Mountains (15,170 acres) and Crossman Peak (26,080 acres) would overlap either partially or completely with priority wildlife habitat for bighorn sheep. The Laguna-Martinez area (13,500 acres) would overlap completely with priority riparian habitat.

From Grazing. Adverse impacts from perennial-ephemeral grazing would occur on the Cactus Plain and La Posa Plain natural areas (see *General Impacts on Natural Areas and Features*). While the overall level of livestock use under the *Preferred Alternative* would not be expected to disturb stable sand dunes in these areas, localized impacts on vegetation and soils would be created from heavy livestock use around waters and salt licks and from trailing along fences. The extent to which these impacts would occur is currently unknown.

The construction of fences, waters and associated maintenance roads would have negative impacts on the visual quality of the areas and open more of them up to vehicle traffic.

From Land Ownership Adjustment. The transfer of lands in Area 11 to the Arizona State Land Department would remove from protection under federal laws and regulations 3,325 acres of unique landforms, plant communities and wildlife habitat in the Cactus Plain area. This acreage represents 4.9% of the total Cactus Plain area.

From Rights-of-Way. New facility construction in the Parker-Blaisdell corridor would adversely affect unique landforms and vegetation communities at the western end of the Cactus Plain.

New facility construction in other utility corridors designated under the *Preferred Alternative* could adversely affect adjacent natural areas: facilities in the Interconnection Corridor could affect scenic and primitive features in the Muggins Mountains; facilities in the Parker-Liberty Corridor could affect unique landforms and vegetation communities in the Cactus Plain and unique scenic features in The Mesa and Gibraltar Mountain. The extent to which new facility construction would affect these areas is unknown.

From Recreation. Prohibiting the collection of wood in riparian areas for home heating or campfire purposes would benefit the Laguna-Martinez natural area by protecting riparian vegetation.

Conclusion. Under the *Preferred Alternative,* adverse impacts on unique natural features in the Cactus Plain and La Posa Plain areas would result from perennial-ephemeral grazing and new rangeland developments. **Additional adverse impacts would result from the transfer of lands on the western Cactus Plain to the Arizona State Land Department.**

Unique natural features in Cactus Plain would be adversely affected by the construction of new facilities in the Parker-Blaisdell corridor. Unique natural features in Muggins Mountains, Cactus Plain, the Mesa and Gibraltar Mountain could be adversely affected by the construction of new facilities within other utility corridors designated under this alternative.

Beneficial impacts on unique natural features would result from priority wildlife habitat management. Approximately 68,190 acres of unique natural features in four areas would benefit from priority wildlife habitat management.

Beneficial impacts on unique natural features in the Laguna-Martinez area would result from the prohibition of wood collection in riparian areas.

IMPACTS ON VEGETATION

From Wildlife Habitat. Under the *Preferred Alternative,* approximately **23,100** acres of riparian vegetation would be protected and maintained through management of these areas as priority wildlife habitat (see *General Impacts on Vegetation*). Habitat for two candidate T&E plant species (see Table 4-9) would be maintained.

TABLE 4-9: IMPACTS ON T&E AND SENSITIVE PLANTS, PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Plant Species	Impacts				
	Wildlife Habitat	SMAs	Grazing	R-O-Ws	Recreation
*Bursera microphylla***	0	0	0	U	0
*Cereus greggii**	0	+	U	U	-
*Coryphantha vivipara alversonii**	0	+	0	U	-
*Euphorbia platysperma**	0	0	0	U	0
*Ferocactus acanthodes acanthodes**	+	+	0	U	-
*Helianthus niveus tephrodes**	0	0	0	U	0
*Mentzelia nitens leptocaulis***	0	0	U	U	0
*Opuntia wigginsii**	0	+	U	U	-
*Palafoxia arida gigantea**	0	0	0	U	0
*Polygonum fusiforme**	+	0	U	U	0
*Rhus kearneyi***	0	+	0	U	0

+ = positive impacts
0 = no impact
- = negative impact
U = unknown impact
* = candidate federal T&E species
** = Bureau sensitive species
Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1984.

From Special Management Areas. Under the *Preferred Alternative*, vegetation would be protected on **31,360** acres in **two designated** SMAs and **155,705** acres in **six** areas managed for protection of scenic and natural values (see *General Impacts on Vegetation*). Two unique plant communities would be protected as a result of special management area guidelines for Cactus Plain. Actual or potential habitat for two candidate T&E plant species would be maintained on 56,215 acres (see Table 4–9).

From Grazing. Under this alternative, overall utilization of vegetation by livestock would improve the Ganado and Nine-Mile allotments through implementation of intensive grazing management and development of new rangeland improvements. Increases in plant cover desirable for livestock would occur on these two allotments where grazing management would rest plants during the critical growth periods, allowing them to increase in vigor and establish new seedlings when climatic conditions are favorable. The Muse allotment would continue current trends in rangeland condition for livestock grazing as a result of continuing present grazing management. Vegetation on the remaining nine "C" allotments would continue to follow present trends.

This alternative would improve trends in rangeland condition for livestock on those portions of the Ganado and Nine-Mile allotments presently receiving the bulk of grazing use — Bouse Wash in Nine-Mile and Osborne Wash in Ganado — by improving species composition for livestock grazing, plant vigor and seedling establishment.

On the other hand, a unique vegetation community on stabilized sand dunes in the La Posa Plain would be negatively affected by grazing. This community evolved in the absence of domestic livestock grazing and could be affected through changes in species composition, plant frequency and cover as a result of grazing. Insufficient data are available for estimating the magnitude of this impact.

Three T&E candidate species and one Bureau sensitive species could be negatively impacted to an unknown extent as a result of grazing (see Table 4–9). Not enough is known about the relationship between livestock and the plant species in question to accurately assess the degree of impacts although it is thought to be insignificant.

From Land Ownership Adjustments. Disposal of 1,100 acres in Area 10 could adversely impact habitat for an unnamed smartweed (*Polygonum fusiforme*), a candidate Federal T&E species.

Disposal of 3,325 acres in Area 11 could adversely impact part of a unique vegetation community on stabilized sand dunes in the Cactus Plain, if developments or uses that would disrupt the vegetation community are subsequently allowed on these lands.

From Rights-of-Way. New facility construction in a 10-mile segment of the Parker-Blaisdell corridor would adversely impact a unique vegetation community on stabilized sand dunes at the western end of the Cactus Plain.

From Recreation. Concentrating long-term camping in two LTVAs could adversely impact four candidate T&E plant species. These species are all cacti and are particularly susceptible to the depredations of illegal cactus rustlers and to being crushed by vehicles. However, these impacts would be offset in part by the indirect protection provided to T&E species by prohibiting long-term camping elsewhere in the district.

Negative impacts to vegetation from use of the Parker 400 race course would increase as race events on this course become more popular. Increases in spectators would result in corresponding increases in impacts to vegetation on approximately 12,800 acres along Osborne Wash from trampling, soil compaction and erosion.

Prohibiting firewood and hobbywood collection on areas where overuse currently threatens denudation (approximately seven percent of the district) would enhance revegetation by woody plants in the long term. However, such revegetation can take years in the desert environment. Prohibiting fuelwood collection would help maintain existing woody vegetation cover in the district.

Conclusion. Positive impacts on the vegetation resource would result from implementation of the wildlife habitat, special management area and wood collection provisions of the *Preferred Alternative*.

The alternative's grazing provisions would have beneficial impacts on vegetation except on the La Posa Plain.

Adverse impacts on vegetation would result from land disposals and the construction of new facilities in the Parker-Blaisdell utility corridor.

Impacts to vegetation on LTVAs would be negative. However, impacts to the vegetation resource overall would be beneficial due to concentrating visitor impacts in relatively small areas of the district.

Adverse impacts on vegetation would result from increased numbers of spectators at races on the Parker 400 course.

IMPACTS ON VISUAL RESOURCES

From Land Ownership Adjustments. Disposal of lands under the *Preferred Alternative* would result in transfer from the public domain of approximately 28,660 acres of VRM Class IV, 10,585 acres of Class III, and 16,245 acres of Class II landscapes. Class II areas consist of scattered parcels of agricultural land in the Yuma and Gila Valleys and Pittsburg Point on Lake Havasu.

From Rights-of-Way. New facility construction in utility corridors designated under the *Preferred Alternative* could adversely affect up to **16,640** acres in VRM Class II areas and **86,400** acres in VRM Class III areas (see Table 4–6 and *General Impacts on Visual Resources*).

New facility construction on communication sites designated under the *Preferred Alternative* could adversely affect four sites in VRM Class II areas and four sites in VRM Class III areas (see Table 4-7 and *General Impacts on Visual Resources*).

From Recreation. Under the *Preferred Alternative*, future recreation development would only be approved if it is compatible with the resource base. Consequently, adverse impacts to visual resources are not anticipated.

Only 640 acres of public land would be designated "open" to unrestricted ORV use. The open use areas are in VRM Class II landscapes, but are located in sand dunes and a sandy wash where ORV use causes little damage to visual resources. In addition, these areas represent 0.05% of the Yuma District, making the negative impact negligible.

Under the *Preferred Alternative* management proposals regulating wood collection would benefit the district's visual resources. Prohibiting firewood collection in high-use recreation areas around the Parker Strip, La Posa Plain and Imperial Dam would protect the visual quality in these areas.

Conclusion. Adverse impacts on visual resources could result from **land disposals** and new facility construction in utility corridors and communication sites designated under the *Preferred Alternative*.

Beneficial impacts on visual resources would result from prohibiting wood collection in high use recreation areas.

IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS

From Wildlife Habitat. Eleven WSAs would benefit from wildlife habitat provisions in the *Preferred Alternative*. Wilderness values on 110,293 acres in 11 WSAs would benefit from priority wildlife habitat management. Affected areas include: three miles of the Bill Williams River riparian zone in the Swansea WSA (160 acres, less than 1% of the WSA) and desert bighorn sheep yearlong use areas in the Mohave Wash WSA (30,400 acres, 29% of the WSA), Gibraltar Mountain WSA (25,260 acres, 100% of the WSA), Planet Peak WSA (3,520 acres, 20% of the WSA), Needles Eastern Addition WSA (465 acres, 100% of the WSA), Crossman Peak WSA (16,848 acres, 44% of the WSA), Whipple Mountain WSA (1,380 acres, 100% of the WSA), Trigo Mountains WSA (25,810 acres, 70% of the WSA), South Trigo Mountains WSA (4,500 acres, 100% of the WSA), Kofa Unit 4 Northern Addition WSA (1,900 acres, 100% of the WSA) and the Kofa Unit 4 Southern Addition WSA (50 acres, less than 1% of the WSA). Priority wildlife habitat management would help to protect wilderness values of solitude and primitive recreation by restricting most surface-disturbing activities in these areas.

From Special Management Areas. Wilderness values on all or parts of nine WSAs (approximately 149,880 acres) would benefit from the *Preferred Alternative's* special management area provisions (see Table 4-8). The affected areas include: Crossman Peak (36.5% of the WSA), Mohave Wash (1% of the WSA), Whipple Mountains (100% of the WSA), Gibraltar Mountain (100% of the WSA), Planet Peak (66% of the WSA), Cactus Plain (95% of the WSA), East Cactus Plain (100% of the WSA), Big Maria Mountains Southern Addition (100% of the WSA) and Muggins Mountains (100% of the WSA). Benefits to wilderness values from special management area provisions are described in *General Impacts on Wilderness*.

From Grazing. In this alternative, the authorized animal unit months (AUMs) would remain the same, thereby presenting no adverse impacts on wilderness values in any of the WSAs. No new rangeland developments are planned in any WSA.

From Land Ownership Adjustment. Disposal of 3,325 acres in Area 11, which is in the Cactus Plain WSA, could adversely impact wilderness values in the southwestern corner of the WSA if these lands are subsequently made available for activities or uses that would impair their naturalness, solitude or primitive recreation values.

Land acquisitions for wildlife habitat and special management areas would help to maintain naturalness and opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation on **31,160 acres within or adjacent to WSAs** (see Table 4-10).

From Rights-of-Way. The centerline for the Parker-Blaisdell utility corridor (UC-6B) would lie **two miles** inside the west boundary of the Cactus Plain WSA. Additional facilities in the corridor would degrade naturalness in this portion of the WSA. Short-term impacts from

TABLE 4-10: LAND ACQUISITIONS BENEFITTING WILDERNESS VALUES, PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

WSA	Acquisitions Acres	 Purpose
Crossman Peak	9,920*	Wildlife
Mohave Wash	14,480	Wildlife
Gibraltar Mountain	1,280	Wildlife
Cactus Plain	2,720	Natural Area
East Cactus Plain	960	Natural Area
South Trigo Mountains	590	Wildlife
Trigo Mountains	1,210	Wildlife
Total	31,160	

*Includes acquisition of land possessing wilderness values outside of present WSA.
Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1984.

construction activity and long-term impacts from visually intrusive towers in the corridor could also detract from solitude in the adjacent portion of this WSA.

Nine other WSAs would have portions of their boundaries included in utility corridors (see Table 4-11). Additional facilities in these corridors could degrade naturalness along the WSA boundaries, as well as slightly degrade solitude within the WSAs by adding to the sights and sounds of man.

From Recreation. ORV use on all 22 WSAs would be limited to existing or designated roads and trails by ORV designations under the *Preferred Alternative*. This action would prevent or slow down the creation of new vehicle ways in these areas. This acts to reduce soil disturbance and erosion, vegetation damage, wildlife habitat changes and archaeologic site disturbance that impact the wilderness qualities of naturalness and solitude.

The Parker 400 race course would be designated as an ORV competitive use area under the *Preferred Alternative*. Impacts of this action would include temporary increases in noise and dust in the Cactus Plain WSA, as well as minor ORV travel by spectators along the northern fringe of the Cactus Plain. The East Cactus Plain, Planet Peak, Gibraltar Mountain and Swansea WSAs would be similarly impacted.

Conclusion. Adverse impacts on the Cactus Plain WSA could result from the disposal of 3,325 acres in its southwestern corner.

Adverse impacts on the Cactus Plain WSA would result from constructing new facilities in the Parker-Blaisdell corridor. Nine other WSAs would be adversely impacted by construction of new facilities in utility corridors located along WSA boundaries.

Temporary adverse impacts from noise, dust and minor ORV travel on the Parker 400 race course would affect the Cactus Plain WSA and four other WSAs.

Beneficial impacts on wilderness values would result from priority wildlife habitat management and protective management of unique natural areas: priority wildlife habitat management would affect about 110,293 acres on 11 WSAs; protective management would affect about 149,880 acres on nine WSAs.

Beneficial impacts would result from the acquisition of 31,160 acres in seven WSAs by helping to maintain wilderness values in those areas.

Beneficial impacts on all 22 WSAs would result from limiting ORV use to existing or designated roads and trails.

IMPACTS ON WILDLIFE

From Wildlife Habitat. Priority management of aquatic and riparian habitat under the *Preferred Alternative* would provide long-term benefits for wildlife on 23,100 acres or approximately 2% of the district (see *General Impacts on Wildlife*).

TABLE 4-11: WSAs BORDERED BY UTILITY CORRIDORS
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

WSA	Alternatives In Which Corridor Designated	Miles of Boundary Formed by Utility Corridors
Dead Mtns., North	P C D	3.5
Dead Mtns., South	P C D	2
Chemehuevi Mountains	C D E	1
Needles Eastern Addition	P D E	0.5
Crossman Peak	C	6
Mohave Wash	P D E	3
Gibraltar Mountain	P C D E	8
Planet Peak	P C D E	7
Cactus Plain	P C D E	9
East Cactus Plain	P C D E	5
Kofa Unit 4 North	P A C D E	2
Muggins Mountains	P C D E	9
Total		56

Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1984.

Priority management of riparian habitat under the *Preferred Alternative* would also sustain the population of the Yuma clapper rail (see *General Impacts on Wildlife*).

Priority management of terrestrial wildlife habitat under the *Preferred Alternative* would provide long-term benefits for wildlife in the Yuma District by protecting habitat conditions on key areas. Managing bighorn sheep yearlong use areas in the Bill Williams, Buckskin, Mohave, Whipple, Black, Trigo and Dome Rock Mountains, and in the Aubrey Hills would benefit bighorn sheep on 216,960 acres or 18% of the district. Management of the Castle Dome migration route (7,680 acres) as priority wildlife habitat would benefit bighorn sheep and mule deer by continuing to allow normal movement patterns between the Chocolate and Castle Dome Mountains. Seasonal closure of roads during the bighorn lambing period (1/1 to 6/30) would benefit sheep reproduction on 11,100 acres (see Map 2).

From Special Management Areas. Protective management of eight unique natural areas under the *Preferred Alternative* would benefit wildlife on 187,065 acres or 16% of the district (see *General Impacts on Wildlife*).

Designating Crossman Peak as a special management area for the protection of scenic values would benefit bighorn sheep by protecting a lambing ground (1,840 acres) in the Mohave Mountains and approximately 38,280 acres of bighorn sheep yearlong-use range from developments such as utility and communication facilities and ORV use.

From Grazing. The development of allotment management plans for two allotments and the construction of range projects such as fences and waters on the Ganado allotment would have minor negative impacts on wildlife. These actions would open new areas of the range to livestock use, causing direct competition with wildlife — primarily small mammals, non-game birds and reptiles. The number of areas with localized impacts to vegetation from trailing and overgrazing around fences and waters would increase. Increased fencing could also negatively impact deer movements.

Improved water distribution on the **two allotments with AMPs** could positively affect such animals as large ungulates (hoofed animals such as deer) and carnivores (meat-eating animals), as well as birds.

Current wildlife habitat conditions on the Muse and Ganado grazing allotments (226,776 acres) would remain essentially unchanged under this alternative.

From Land Ownership Adjustments. Disposal of **5,745** acres in Areas 3, **10 and 11** could have negative impacts on wildlife in this area if the acquiring entities' objectives do not include management for wildlife values. Area 3 is a vegetated wash that provides cover, forage and breeding habitat for such diverse species as mule deer, Gambel's quail, non-game birds, small mammals, carnivores, raptors and reptiles. **Area 10 has scattered cattail-mesquite riparian communities that are important to both fisheries and wildlife, and Area 11 is a unique system of stabilized sand dunes**.

From Rights-of-Way. The Parker-Liberty corridor as designated under the *Preferred Alternative* would bisect important bighorn sheep range in the Buckskin Mountains. Construction of additional facilities in this corridor could further impact bighorn sheep by creating barriers to movements and permitting increased vehicle use into the area.

The Parker-Blaisdell corridor, also designated under this alternative, would bisect a major bighorn sheep migration route between the Chocolate and Castle Dome Mountains. The proliferation of new facilities through this corridor could eventually cut off deer and sheep access.

The Parker-Blaisdell corridor would also cross the western end of the Cactus Plain. New facility construction within this segment of the corridor would result in the direct loss or disruption of wildlife habitat in the unique system of stabilized sand dunes that lie within the area.

From Recreation. Opening 640 acres to unrestricted ORV use under the *Preferred Alternative* would result in negligible adverse impacts on wildlife.

Limiting competitive ORV use to two designated areas on the district would generally benefit wildlife by restricting the size of areas impacted by this recreational use. No further negative impacts would accrue to wildlife from use of the Ehrenberg Sand Bowl because this area is heavily impacted at present. Site-specific adverse impacts to wildlife would continue from the designation and use of the Parker 400 competitive use area. Major impacts have already occurred along the course, and competitive use would continue to cause some habitat degradation due to vegetation destruction, soil erosion and wildlife harassment.

Prohibiting collection of fuelwood for domestic and commercial purposes under the *Preferred Alternative* would benefit wildlife species on 100% of the district. Demand for the consumptive use of trees on the district exceeds the resource's ability to replenish itself. These trees provide habitat diversity and contribute to wildlife species diversity and abundance. Numerous wildlife species depend on wooded area for escape and thermal cover and for forage, nesting and breeding habitat.

In general, allowing limited collection of firewood for on-site campfire purposes under the *Preferred Alternative* would have negligible impacts on wildlife. However, localized areas of over-collection would occur where recreationists tend to congregate. These areas would include LTVAs and riparian woodlands along the Colorado.

Prohibiting further collection of wood for campfires on approximately 7% of the district under this alternative (see Table 2-9) would benefit wildlife on those areas by preventing further degeneration of their habitat.

Conclusion. Adverse impacts on wildlife would result from the disposal of **5,745** acres of wildlife habitat, new utilities in the Parker-Liberty and Parker-Blaisdell corridors, and competitive events on the Parker 400 course.

Beneficial impacts on wildlife would result from priority management of riparian and terrestrial habitat and protective management of unique natural areas; priority management of riparian and terrestrial habitat would affect **247,740** acres; protective management of unique natural areas would affect **187,065** acres.

Priority wildlife habitat management would also protect the Yuma clapper rail and other sensitive species.

Beneficial impacts on wildlife would also result from the acquisition of 640 acres of wildlife habitat and from restrictions on wood collection.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

From Special Management Areas. Managing the Cactus Plain under the special management guidelines described in the *Preferred Alternative* could preclude utilization of some or all of approximately 2,400 AUMs of potential forage that would be produced annually in the long term as a result of new rangeland developments and intensive grazing management. The loss of potential forage would result in a loss of potential annual revenue for ranchers of approximately $6,600 for each year of the 20-year period of analysis.

From Grazing. Under the *Preferred Alternative,* annual forage production would increase on "I" allotments in the long term as a result of implementing new rangeland developments and intensive grazing management; livestock forage production would increase by 3,756 AUMs to a total of 7,754 AUMs over a period of 20 years. An increase in forage production could mean an increase in annual revenue for ranchers if additional livestock grazing is authorized to utilize the additional forage.

As shown in Table 4-12, the average annual value of range production or average annual income to ranchers would be $45,700 when analyzed over a 20-year period under this alternative.

TABLE 4-12: ECONOMIC IMPACTS FROM LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Impact Measurement Unit	Alternatives					
	Preferred	A	B	C	D	E
Production (AUMs)						
Initial	3,998	3,998	7,754	3,998	2,459	0
Long-Term[a]	7,754	3,998	8,650	7,754	5,754	0
Average Annual Income to Ranchers[b]	$45,700[c]	$35,380	$ 47,400[c]	$45,700	$32,800[c]	0
Range Improvement Costs	$26,250	Unknown	$267,000	$82,250	$82,000	$1,000,000

[a] Long-Term = 20 years.

[b] Average annual income was determined for a 20-year period using an 8 1/8% discount factor and an expected rate of return of $8.85 per AUM. Use of "average annual income" permits evaluation of varying income flows over the 20-year period of analysis.

[c] These figures do not include losses of potential revenue that could occur due to special management area provisions and/or land disposals. (See Conclusions for Economic Impacts of the Preferred Alternative, Alternative B and Alternative D for a description of these losses).

Source: Estimates computed by BLM range conservationist personnel, Phoenix District Office, and BLM Regional Economist, Arizona State Office, 1984.

From Land Ownership Adjustments. Land ownership transactions under the *Preferred Alternative* could result in a net transfer of 24,270 acres of public lands out of federal ownership; this estimate assumes that land exchanges would be used to the fullest extent possible. BLM estimates that the average value of lands that are sold out of federal ownership would be $150 per acre. Accordingly, as shown in Table 4-13, the sale of 11,940 acres of public lands in Areas 1-8 to private individuals or organizations would increase annual county tax revenues by about $31,400 as a result of increasing the taxable land base. At the same time, federal government payments to counties in lieu of taxes (PILT) on public lands would be reduced by about $2,450 as a result of transferring these lands out of federal ownership. **The transfer of 12,330 acres in Areas 10-12 to the state would have no effect on taxes and only a minor effect on in lieu payments.**

The transfer of Disposal Area 10 (Pittsburg Point) to the State of Arizona would have no local economic impacts in the short term since no change in the management of the area is anticipated. In the long term, economic impacts from the transfer would depend on actions taken by the state. In the event that the state sells any or all of Pittsburg Point, there would be a considerable increase to the local tax base. In addition, transfer from state ownership could modify the types of recreation opportunities provided by the area, the recreation clientele and ultimately recreation expenditures in the local economy. The exact nature and extent of these changes is not known at this time.

The disposal of 11,230 acres of federal land in Areas 11 and 12 could preclude utilization of approximately 1,000 AUMs of potential forage that would be produced annually in the long term as a result of new rangeland improvements and intensive grazing management. This loss of potential forage would result in a loss of potential annual revenue for ranchers of approximately $2,700 for each year of the 20-year period of analysis.

From Recreation. Implementing the recreation management guidelines of the *Preferred Alternative* would have varied economic impacts.

Along the Parker Strip, overnight occupancy rates could decline in the short term as a result of moving RV and campsites out of the floodplain to less desirable areas away from the river. However, by moving overnight facilities out of the floodplain, access to and use of riverfront recreation facilities would be available to greater numbers of recreationists. Insufficient data are available for estimating and projecting actual changes in recreation user numbers or receipts at this time.

Allowing the recreation concession and lease program to expand beyond present capacity in order to meet future increases in demand could increase the share of local and regional retail and services trade attributable to BLM's recreation program. Currently, recreation concession and lease receipts represent about 2.1% of the total retail trade and services receipts for local economies in the study area. The magnitude and significance of this change cannot be estimated at this time due to limited knowledge concerning future demands.

Phasing out permanent residency and limiting the continuous occupancy of mobile home sites in BLM recreation concessions and leases to five months could reduce local business revenue. Assuming that permanent residences would be phased out at an annual rate of 5% over a 20-year period, an average of slightly more than $3 million in local business and recreation concession and lease receipts would be lost annually during the period 1986–2005. However, these losses in potential revenue would be offset to a large extent by expenditures of an increased number of short-term recreationists who would be able to use concession and lease facilities as a result of limiting the length-of-stay and phasing out mobile home sites. While the net average annual loss in potential revenue cannot be accurately estimated due to a lack of data necessary for projecting short-stay use, the loss in annual concession and local business revenues is expected to be somewhat less than $3 million. The local and regional economic impact of these losses would be negligible since they represent only about .3% of the total retail and services sector receipts for the economic study area.

Use of the Parker 400 race course for one major competitive event per year has contributed approximately $125,000 in competitor and spectator expenditures to the Parker and nearby community economies in recent years. Designating the Parker course and continuing to allow at least one major event per year would continue to add at least this amount of revenue to the local Parker and regional economies annually. While they do not all occur within the town of Parker itself, the race related expenditures are equal to only .5% of the total annual retail and service receipts of Parker. Accordingly, assuming a maximum of three or four major events would be allowed to use the Parker 400 course annually, the local and regional economic impacts of this alternative would be minor.

Conclusion. Recreation concession and local retail and services sector revenues could decline as a result of phasing out permanent residency and limiting the continuous occupancy of mobile home sites to five months in concessions. However, the overall local and regional economic impact of these losses would be negligible.

Increased forage production from intensive grazing management practices would provide ranchers with a net average annual revenue of about $45,700. However, losses due to special management area provisions and land disposals could reduce this figure to $36,400.

Land ownership adjustments under the *Preferred Alternative* could generate additional annual tax revenue of approximately **$31,400** while reducing PILT payments by **$2,450** for the three Arizona counties in the study area.

In the long term, transfer of Disposal Area 10 to the State of Arizona could result in increases in the local tax base and changes in recreation expenditures.

Impacts of Alternative A

In addition to the impacts discussed below, refer to the general impacts section relating to each resource for environmental consequences that apply to all alternatives.

IMPACTS ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

From Wildlife Habitat. Priority wildlife habitat areas identified under *Alternative A* include **about 183,740** acres. Of these acres, approximately 1% (2,100 acres)

TABLE 4-13: ECONOMIC IMPACTS FROM LAND OWNERSHIP ADJUSTMENT
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

		Alternatives				
Impact Measurement Unit	Preferred	A	B	C	D	E
Federal Revenue from public land sales ($)[a]	1,791,000	0	14,274,000[b]	13,410,000[b]	0	0
Changes in County Revenues ($):						
Personal Property Tax[c]	0	0	0	0	0	79,870
Land Tax	+31,400	-51,000	+250,000[d]	+235,200[d]	-6,000	54,900
PILT[e]	-2,450	+3,900	-8,740	-7,700	+450	+4,170

[a] One-time contribution to federal treasury from public land sales.
[b] Includes one-time revenue from sale of 2,700 acres of agricultural lands.
[c] Changes in county tax revenues due to changes in taxable crop production.
[d] This amount includes tax revenue that would be generated from sale of 2,700 acres of agricultural lands.
[e] Payments in-lieu of taxes.
Source: Estimates computed by BLM Regional Economist, Arizona State Office, 1984.

coincide with areas of known high or moderate cultural resource sensitivity. These acres represent about 4% of the total area of known high and moderate cultural resource sensitivity in the district.

Important cultural resources known to occur in priority wildlife habitat areas include two aboriginal villages, one intaglio and one petroglyph complex. These specific cultural resources total approximately 300 acres of proposed priority wildlife habitat under this alternative. These resources would receive indirect protection from priority wildlife habitat management as described in *General Impacts on Cultural Resources.*

From Special Management Areas. No special management areas would be established for protection of cultural resources in this alternative. However, applying the protective measures required by law would avoid significant damage to or loss of known cultural resources in the district.

As shown in Table 4–2, approximately 2,200 acres of public lands with high and moderate cultural resource sensitivity would indirectly benefit from management actions to protect unique natural values in the Whipple Mountains and La Posa Plain under *Alternative A*. This represents 6.5% of the total area of known high and moderate cultural resource sensitivity in the district. Important cultural resources known to occur in these areas include several rock shelters, a multi-component rock ring habitation area and a wide variety of other sites. These resources would be indirectly protected by restricting surface-disturbing activities in these areas (see *General Impacts on Cultural Resources*).

From Grazing. Impacts on cultural resources from grazing under *Alternative A would be the same as those described for the Preferred Alternative.*

From Land Ownership Adjustments. Impacts on cultural resources from land ownership adjustments under *Alternative A* would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

From Rights-of-Way. No areas of known cultural resource sensitivity occur in existing utility corridors in the Yuma District. Impacts from construction of facilities in designated communication sites would be the same as described in the *Preferred Alternative.*

From Recreation. Impacts on cultural resources from continued camping use in the La Posa LTVA would be the same as those described in the *Preferred Alternative.*

Impacts on cultural resources from ORV use designations would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

Impacts on cultural resources from races held on the Parker 400 course under *Alternative A* would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

Conclusion. Under *Alternative A*, about 5,860 acres or 10% of the total area of known high and moderate cultural resource sensitivity would be indirectly protected from wildlife habitat and special management area actions.

Proposed grazing use would negatively impact known cultural resources in the Ganado allotment.

Disposal of Areas 5 and 7 could adversely affect cultural resources. Damage to cultural resources could occur as a result of concentrating long-term campers in the La Posa LTVA. However, this damage would be offset by the positive effects of eliminating this use elsewhere in the district.

Important cultural resource areas would be protected by the designation of 22,240 acres as "closed" to ORV use.

Spectators at races on the Parker 400 course would subject known cultural resources on 5,000 acres to damage from surface disturbing activities or loss as a result of vandalism.

New facility development on Black Peak and Big Maria communication sites would conflict with the spiritual values of Native American sacred areas.

IMPACTS ON MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES

From Wildlife Habitat. The no-surface-occupancy stipulation for oil and gas leases and the seasonal closure of roads on 9,220 acres of bighorn sheep lambing grounds (less than 1% of the planning area) would not impede mineral and energy development for reasons described in the *Preferred Alternative.*

Conclusion. Impacts on mineral and energy development from the proposed actions of this alternative would be negligible.

IMPACTS ON RANGELAND RESOURCES

From Special Management Areas. No impacts on rangeland production are anticipated from designating unique natural areas under this alternative, because no restrictions on livestock use or rangeland developments would be imposed.

From Grazing. Existing grazing use, patterns and management practices would be allowed to continue without change and therefore would not impact livestock grazing. Existing rangeland developments would be maintained and new developments would be constructed on a case-by-case basis if needed for livestock control. Cattle from the Ganado allotment would continue to drift into the Nine-Mine allotment during the winter months without construction of a new 14-mile boundary fence.

Without changing current grazing management, approximately 12,000 acres along the Bouse Wash (Nine-Mile) and Osborne Wash (Ganado) would continue to receive the bulk of the grazing pressure. These areas that have historically received heavier grazing than the surrounding perennial range would continue to show declining trends in ecological condition of the rangeland.

From Land Ownership Adjustments. Acquiring 18,140 acres of non-federal lands on ephemeral allotments would not impact livestock grazing management.

Acquiring 6,480 acres of federal land would enhance BLM's ability to administer grazing and control in the placement and construction of new rangeland developments on P-E allotments.

From Recreation. Impacts on rangeland production from races on the Parker 400 course under *Alternative A* would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

Conclusion. Adverse impacts on rangeland production would result from the continuation of present grazing management practices under *Alternative A*; ecological rangeland condition on the Nine-Mile and Ganado allotments would decline.

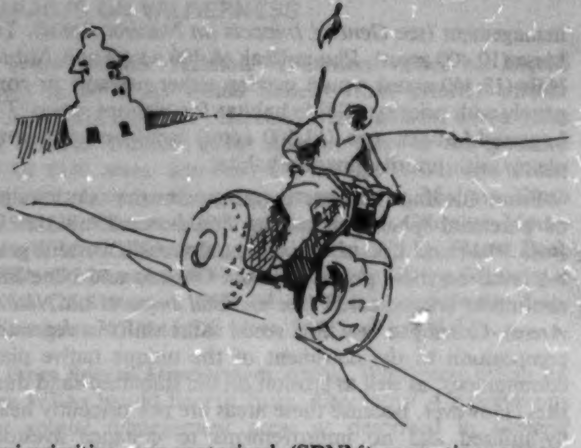
Adverse impacts on rangeland production would also result from the congregation of spectators and vehicles along Osborne Wash during the Parker 400 ORV race.

Beneficial impacts on rangeland production would result from the acquisition of 6,480 acres of non-federal lands on P-E allotments.

IMPACTS ON RECREATION RESOURCES

From Wildlife Habitat. Impacts on recreation resources from *Alternative A's* wildlife habitat provisions would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

From Special Management Areas. Protecting natural values in 10 areas (159,550 acres) under *Alternative A* would help to ensure that natural, wildlife observation, hunting, hiking, sightseeing and other primitive (P) and semi-primitive non-motorized (SPNM) recreation opportunities would continue to be available in the future (see *General Impacts on Recreation Resources*). However, the overall impact would be negligible since these uses occur infrequently in these areas.



From Rights-of-Way. Impacts on recreation resources from utility corridor designations would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

From Recreation. The availability of riverfront recreation opportunities would remain unchanged under *Alternative A.*

Impacts from ORV designations would be the same as those described in the *Preferred Alternative.*

Under *Alternative A*, recreationists would be permitted to collect dead and detached firewood in the vicinity of their campsites. However, in the long term, opportunities for visitors to enjoy campfires and gather wood for hobby purposes would decline as existing supplies of wood resources are exhausted. The attractiveness of present recreation use areas would consequently decline. These impacts would be most severe at the La Posa LTVA and near Senator Wash Reservoir in the Imperial Dam LTVA.

Conclusion. Under *Alternative A*, the demand for authorized open-intensive ORV use opportunities would continue to go unmet. Conflicts between ORV use and other recreation activities would be avoided, however, by not designating areas in and around high-use camping areas as open.

Potential losses in long-term camping opportunities would result from locating new transmission lines in the Parker-Blaisdell corridor.

Adverse impacts on recreation resources would result from continuing current wood collection management in high use recreation areas.

IMPACTS ON NATURAL AREAS AND FEATURES

From Wildlife Habitat. Under *Alternative A*, four natural areas would benefit from priority wildlife habitat management (see *General Impacts on Natural Areas*). The Mesa (10,400 acres), Planet Peak (6,400 acres) and Aubrey Hills (13,440 acres) would overlap either partially or completely with priority wildlife habitat for bighorn sheep. The Laguna-Martinez area (13,500 acres) would overlap completely with priority riparian habitat.

From Grazing. Adverse impacts from the continuation of perennial-ephemeral grazing could occur on the La Posa Plain and Cactus Plain natural areas if current grazing levels on these portions of the Ganado and Nine-Mile allotments are increased (see *General Impacts on Natural Areas*). Grazing at any level could cause shifts in vegetative composition to the detriment of the unique native plant communities, as well as erosion on the stabilized sand dune sites. However, because these areas are not presently heavily utilized and no improvements to enhance livestock distribution are planned under this alternative, the likelihood of these adverse impacts is low.

From Rights-of-Way. New facility construction in the Interstate 8 corridor could adversely affect scenic features in the Mohawk Mountains. It is unknown to what extent new facility construction would affect this area.

Conclusion. Under *Alternative A*, adverse impacts on unique natural features in the Cactus Plain and La Posa Plain areas would result from continued perennial-ephemeral grazing on the Ganado and Nine-Mile allotments.

Unique natural features in Mohawk Mountains could be adversely affected by the construction of new facilities in utility corridors designated under this alternative.

IMPACTS ON VEGETATION

From Wildlife Habitat. Impacts on riparian vegetation and two candidate T&E species from wildlife habitat management under *Alternative A* would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

From Special Management Areas. Under *Alternative A*, vegetation would be protected on 102,600 acres in six SMAs and 56,950 acres in four areas managed for protection of scenic and natural values (see *General Impacts on Vegetation*). Two unique plant communities would be protected as result of special management area guidelines for Cactus Plain (see Table 4-14).

From Grazing. This alternative proposes no changes in present grazing management. In the short term, existing trends in ecological rangeland condition would continue. The downward apparent trend on 1,845 acres of the Ganado allotment would continue.

Any negative impacts to vegetation in the long term would result from the existing continuous use of Bouse Wash in the Nine-Mile allotment and Osborne Wash in the Ganado allotment. Without implementation of AMPs and construction of new range developments, the ecological rangeland condition would not improve on portions of the Ganado and Nine-Mile and Muse allotments currently having livestock distribution and overuse problems would not improve in range vegetation condition and trend. Continuous grazing results in deterioration of the vigor and species composition of the vegetation resource. Consequently, vegetation on portions of the Ganado and Nine Mile allotments would be negatively impacted through overuse.

TABLE 4-14: IMPACTS ON T&E AND SENSITIVE PLANTS, ALTERNATIVE A
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Plant Species	Impacts				
	Wildlife Habitat	SMAs	Grazing	R-O-Ws	Recreation
Bursera microphylla**	0	0	0	U	U
Cereus greggii*	0	+	U	U	-
Coryphantha vivipera alversonii*	0	+	0	U	-
Euphorbia platysperma*	0	+	0	U	U
Ferocactus acanthodes acanthodes*	+	+	0	U	-
Helianthus niveus tephrodes*	0	+	0	U	0
Mentzelia nitens leptocaulis**	0	0	U	U	0
Opuntia wigginsii*	U	0	U	U	-
Palafoxia arida gigantea*	0	+	0	U	0
Polygonum fusiforme*	+	0	U	U	0
Rhus kearneyi**	U	+	0	U	0

+ = positive impacts
0 = no impact
- = negative impact
U = unknown impact
* = candidate federal T&E species
** = Bureau sensitive species
Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1984.

The vegetative resource on the Muse Allotment would continue to improve under existing management but to an unknown extent. Currently, 80% of the allotment has an upward trend in ecological rangeland condition.

Impacts on the unique plant communities in Cactus Plain, three candidate T&E species and one Bureau sensitive plant species would be the same as described in the *Preferred Alternative*.

From Recreation. Impacts on vegetation from long-term camping in LTVAs and competitive events on the Parker 400 course would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

Continuing current policy for wood collection on the District would result in negative impacts to the vegetation resource on localized areas. Concentrations of winter visitors on the LTVAs along the Colorado River and near Quartzsite results in the over-collection of the scarce wood resource for campfires, wood carving and decorative purposes. Demand is so high that living trees are being destroyed at a rate faster than they can be replaced. Demand for firewood for home heating use similarly denudes riparian zones along the Colorado River and in desert washes. No data is available on the amount and extent of damage to live vegetation in the areas that are overused.

Conclusion. Positive impacts on the vegetation resource would result from implementation of the wildlife habitat and special management area provisions of *Alternative A*.

Livestock grazing could change the native plant community structure on the Cactus Plain and La Posa Plain by changing species composition, frequency and cover.

Impacts to vegetation on LTVAs would be negative. However, impacts to the vegetation resource overall would be beneficial due to concentrating visitor impacts in relatively small areas of the district.

Continuing current policy for wood collection on the District would result in negative impacts on vegetation.

Adverse impacts on vegetation would result from increased numbers of spectators at races on the Parker 400 course.

IMPACTS ON VISUAL RESOURCES

From Land Ownership Adjustments. Disposal of lands specified under *Alternative A* would result in transfer from the public domain of 7,268 acres of VRM Class IV landscape.

From Rights-of-Way. New facility construction in utility corridors designated under *Alternative A* could adversely affect up to 19,840 acres in VRM Class II areas and 61,440 acres in VRM Class III areas (see Table 4-6 and *General Impacts on Visual Resources*).

New facility construction on communication sites designated under *Alternative A* could adversely affect 3 sites in VRM Class II areas and 4 sites in VRM Class III areas (see Table 4-7 and *General Impacts on Visual Resources*).

From Recreation. Negligible impacts to visual resources would result from implementing the concession management provisions of *Alternative A*. All 14 of the privately-operated concessions are within VRM Class II landscapes; new development in concessions should be consistent with VRM Class II management guidelines contained in current recreation area management plans which have been written and approved for these areas.

Impacts on visual resources from *Alternative A's* ORV use designations would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

The continuation of current wood collection management would have negative impacts on visual quality. Continued intensive firewood collection in high-use recreation areas around the Parker Strip, La Posa Plain and Imperial Dam (VRM Class II areas) would reduce the vegetative component of the landscape and diminish scenic quality in these areas.

Conclusion. Adverse impacts on visual resources would result from new facility construction in utility corridors and communication sites designated under *Alternative A*.

Adverse impacts on visual resources would result from the continuation of current wood collection management in high-use recreation areas.

IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS

From Wildlife Habitat. Wilderness values on 89,650 acres in 6 WSAs would benefit from priority wildlife habitat management. Affected areas include: three miles of the Bill Williams River riparian zone in the Swansea WSA (160 acres, less than 1% of the WSA) and desert bighorn sheep yearlong use areas in the Mohave Wash WSA (30,400 acres, 29% of the WSA), Gibralter Mountain WSA (25,260 acres, 100% of the WSA), Planet Peak WSA (3,520 acres, 20% of the WSA), Trigo Mountains WSA (25,810 acres, 70% of the WSA) and South Trigo Mountains WSA (4,500 acres, 100% of the WSA).

From Special Management Areas. Wilderness values on **five** WSAs would benefit from *Alternative A's* provisions for special management areas as described in *General Impacts on Wilderness*. These WSAs are shown in Table 4-15.

From Land Ownership Adjustment. Land acquisitions for wildlife habitat would indirectly benefit the wilderness characteristics of naturalness, solitude and primitive recreation on **23,610** acres within and adjacent to WSAs by consolidating federal ownership and preventing activities incompatible with priority wildlife habitat (see Table 4-16).

From Rights-of-Way. Two WSAs would have portions of their boundaries included in utility corridors (see Table 4-11). Potential impacts on wilderness values of naturalness and solitude in these WSAs would be the same as described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

From Recreation. ORV use on all 22 WSAs would be limited to existing or designated roads and trails. The impacts from this action would be the same as those described in the *Preferred Alternative*.

The Parker 400 race course would continue to be used as an ORV competitive-use area under *Alternative A*. The impacts on **five** WSAs would be the same those as described in the *Preferred Alternative*.

Conclusion. Adverse impacts on two WSAs would result from the construction of new facilities in utility corridors located along WSA boundaries.

Temporary adverse impacts on five WSAs would result from noise, dust and minor ORV travel on the Parker 400 race course.

Beneficial impacts on wilderness values would result from priority wildlife habitat management and protective management of unique natural areas. Priority wildlife habitat management would affect about **89,650** acres on **six** WSAs and protective management would affect about **33,582** acres on five WSAs.

Beneficial impacts would result from the acquisition of **23,610** acres in **five** WSAs recommended as unsuitable by helping to maintain wilderness values in those areas.

Beneficial impacts on **all 22** WSAs would result from limiting ORV use to existing or designated roads and trails.

TABLE 4-15: SPECIAL MANAGEMENT IN WSAs, ALTERNATIVE A
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

WSA	Designation Type	SMA Acreage In WSA	Percent of WSA Protected
Mohave Wash	**No designation but special management to protect scenic values**	1,050	1.0
Whipple Mountains	No designation but special management to protect natural values	1,380	100.0
Planet Peak	**No designation but special management to protect primitive values**	11,640	66.0
Cactus Plain	Outstanding Natural Area, Natural Resources Experiment and Research Area	5,760	8.2
East Cactus Plain	Outstanding Natural Area, Natural Resources Experiment and Research Area	4,800	35.0

Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1984.

IMPACTS ON WILDLIFE

From Wildlife Habitat. Priority management of aquatic and riparian habitat under *Alternative A* would provide long-term benefits for wildlife on **23,100** acres or approximately 2% of the district (see *General Impacts on Wildlife*).

Priority management of riparian habitat under *Alternative A* would also sustain the population of the Yuma clapper rail (see *General Impacts on Wildlife*).

Priority management of terrestrial wildlife habitat under *Alternative A* would provide long-term benefits for wildlife in the Yuma District by maintaining habitat conditions at current levels. Managing the Aubrey Hills, the Trigo Mountains, the Dome Rock Mountains, the Buckskin Mountains and the Bill Williams Mountains for their wildlife values would benefit bighorn sheep on 160,640 acres or 13% of the district by maintaining critical food, cover and range for these populations. Seasonal closure of roads during the bighorn lambing period (1/1 to 4/15) would significantly benefit sheep reproduction on 9,220 acres (see Map 3).

From Special Management Areas. Protective management of 10 unique natural areas under *Alternative A* would benefit wildlife on **159,550** acres or 13% of the district (see *General Impacts on Wildlife*).

From Grazing. Continuing present levels of grazing under *Alternative A* would have negligible adverse impacts on wildlife, since impacts to habitat have already occurred. Although present distribution patterns of cattle have created localized areas of overgrazing on the Nine-Mile, Ganado and Muse perennial-ephemeral allotments, ecological rangeland condition on 65% of the three allotments (219,334 acres) is good to excellent and range trend is static or improving. Approximately 21,000 acres or 6% of the three allotments are in poor ecological rangeland condition, and 98,257 acres or 29% of the three allotments are in fair ecological rangeland condition.

From Land Ownership Adjustment. *Alternative A's* provisions for 7,268 acres of land disposals would have negligible impacts on wildlife. No disposals of priority wildlife habitat would be made.

Impacts to wildlife could occur if the disposed lands are developed for urban or intensive recreation uses such as

TABLE 4-16: LAND ACQUISITIONS BENEFITTING WILDERNESS VALUES, ALTERNATIVE A
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

WSA	Acquisitions	
	Acres	Purpose
Crossman Peak	9,920*	Wildlife
Mohave Wash	8,160	Wildlife
Gibraltar Mountain	1,280	Wildlife
Trigo Mountains South	1,230	Wildlife
Trigo Mountains	770	Wildlife
Total	23,610	

*Includes acquisition of land possessing wilderness values outside of present WSA.
Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1984.

RV parks or concessions. Such uses would tend to spill over onto adjacent lands and disrupt the wildlife habitat values found there.

Acquisitions totaling 26,620 acres under *Alternative A* would benefit wildlife by consolidating habitat and halting encroachment from other uses. These acquisitions involve bighorn sheep and riparian priority wildlife habitat.

From Rights-of-Way. The Parker-Blaisdell corridor, as designated under *Alternative A*, would bisect a major bighorn sheep migration route between the Chocolate and Castle Dome Mountains. The proliferation of new facilities through this corridor could eventually cut off deer and sheep access.

From Recreation. Opening 640 acres to unrestricted ORV use under *Alternative A* would result in negligible adverse impacts on wildlife.

Designation of the Parker 400 competitive-use area would have the same secondary adverse impacts as described in the *Preferred Alternative.*

Wood collection activities allowed under *Alternative A* would have long-term negative impacts on wildlife on approximately 10% of the district. The removal of live, dead and down wood through these activities would result in a direct loss of wildlife habitat provided by desert vegetation (see Chapter 3, *Wildlife*).

Allowing continued wood collection for hobby purposes and on-site campfires in and around LTVAs would eventually lead to the removal of all dead material as well as the destruction of many living trees. This would result in a loss of wildlife habitat on approximately **14,000** acres of public lands on the district.

Authorizing commercial sales and domestic collection of fuelwood for home heating purposes could have long-term impacts on riparian areas, desert washes and other areas where enough wood is present to collect. Such fuelwood collecting would exceed the ability of the resource to replenish itself.

Conclusion. Adverse impacts on wildlife would result from new utilities in the Parker-Blaisdell corridor, competitive events on the Parker 400 course, and unrestricted wood collection.

Beneficial impacts on a total of 274,950 acres of wildlife habitat would result from priority management of riparian and terrestrial habitat and from protective management of unique natural areas. Priority wildlife habitat management would also protect the Yuma clapper rail and other sensitive species.

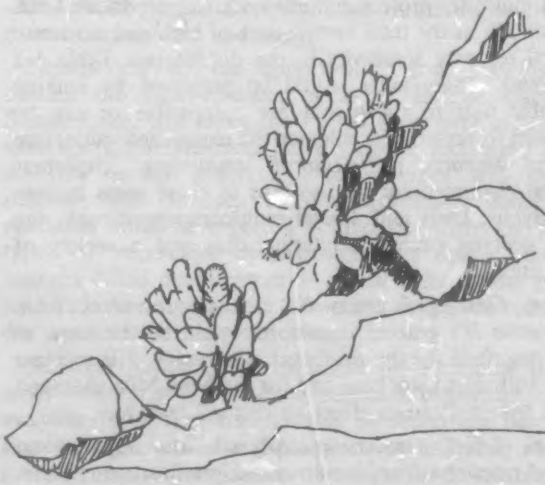
Beneficial impacts on wildlife would also result from the acquisition of 21,420 acres of wildlife habitat.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

From Grazing. Under *Alternative A*, present grazing preference and management systems would not change. Accordingly, there would be no change in revenue for ranchers or in local and regional economic conditions.

From Land Ownership Adjustment. Land acquisitions and disposals under could result in a net acquisition or transfer of 19,352 acres of private lands into federal ownership. The average value of these lands is estimated by BLM to be about $150 per acre. As indicated in Table 4-16, acquisition of these lands could reduce the tax base and therefore tax revenue of counties by about $51,000. Payments in-lieu of taxes (PILT) on public lands to counties would increase by about $3,900.

From Recreation. The location of recreation facilities and the overall size of the recreation concession and lease program would not change under this alternative. Consequently, concession and lease revenues, and the share of local and regional economies attributable to users of these facilities would be maintained at present levels.



Encouraging a shift from mobile home sites to RV or campsites in order to increase the recreation capacity of concessions and leases would have the same impacts as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

The local and regional economic benefits resulting from competitive ORV events held on the Parker 400 course would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

Conclusion. Land ownership adjustments under *Alternative A* could reduce annual tax revenue by about $51,000 while increasing PILT payments by $3,900 for counties in the study area.

Recreation concession and local retail and services sector revenues could decline as a result of encouraging a shift to RV or campsites in place of mobile home sites in concessions and leases. However, the overall local and regional economic impact of these losses would be negligible.

Impacts of Alternative B

In addition to the impacts described below, refer to the general impacts section relating to each resource for environmental consequences that apply to all alternatives.

IMPACTS ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

From Wildlife Habitat. in *Alternative B,* no priority wildlife habitat areas are proposed. Therefore, no indirect or direct benefits on cultural resources would result from the implementation of this alternative.

From Special Management Areas. No special management areas would be established for the protection of cultural resources in this alternative. However, these sites would be protected in accordance with the requirements of law as the need arises, thereby avoiding damage to or loss of known cultural resources.

Managing **116,595** acres for protection of natural values would indirectly protect cultural resources on about **1,500** acres or 3% of the total known area of high and moderate cultural resource sensitivity in the district (see Table 4-2 for areas). These areas would be protected by limiting allowable uses to those that are compatible or can be mitigated to preserve or enhance the recognized values (see *General Impacts on Cultural Resources*). Important cultural resources known to occur in these areas include petroglyphs, trails and several multicomponent rock ring and "sleeping circle" habitation sites and a variety of other sites.

From Grazing. Impacts on cultural resources from *Alternative B's* grazing provisions would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.* The increase in the authorized stocking rate for the Nine-Mile allotment would have no known effect on cultural resources.

From Land Ownership Adjustments. Impacts on cultural resources from land ownership adjustments under *Alternative B* would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

From Recreation. Impacts on cultural resources from continued long-term camping use in the La Posa LTVA under *Alternative B* would be the same as described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

Adverse effects from use of the Parker 400 ORV race course would be similar to those described for the *Preferred Alternative.* However, the probability of impacts would increase proportionately with the number of race events held annually at this course.

Conclusion. Under *Alternative B,* about **1,500** acres or 3% of the total area of known cultural resource sensitivity would be protected indirectly through special management area actions.

Proposed grazing use would negatively impact known cultural resources in the Ganado allotment.

Disposal of Areas 5 and 7 could adversely affect cultural resources.

Damage to cultural resources could occur as a result of concentrating long-term campers in the La Posa LTVA. However, this damage would be offset by the positive effects of eliminating this use elsewhere in the district.

Cultural resources on about 5,000 acres would be threatened by spectator activity associated with race events on the Parker 400 course ORV race.

IMPACTS ON RANGELAND RESOURCES

From Special Management Areas. No impacts on rangeland production are anticipated from managing the Cactus Plain area to protect its unique natural features, because no restrictions on livestock use or rangeland developments would be imposed.

From Grazing. This alternative proposes to increase initial grazing use from 3,998 to 7,754 animal-unit months (AUMs), an increase of 3,756 AUMs in the short term. This increase would be accomplished through temporary non-renewable permits. The initial upward adjustment would only be implemented when all proposed rangeland developments have been constructed and the allotment management plans (AMPs) are implemented. Constructing new rangeland developments in previously unused areas would result in beneficial impacts to grazing from additional forage becoming available.

Grazing systems established in AMPs would provide a rest period for the key forage species during their critical stages of growth. Accordingly, livestock pressure in overgrazed areas would be reduced and the areas would revegetate as plants are allowed to complete their growth cycles while areas that are underused would receive livestock use. Rangeland that has previously been unused by livestock or where plants have stagnated would also improve to an unknown extent under a grazing system. Livestock grazing would remove the old plant growth that

inhibits new growth from taking place, especially on galleta grass, the predominant forage grass species on the Nine-Mile and Ganado allotments. Galleta grass in these areas is only palatable to livestock when new green growth appears; it is highly unusable when dry. Any grazing systems developed in AMPs for the Nine-Mile and Ganado allotments must take into consideration that galleta grass is a seasonal perennial forage plant only when summer and winter rains occur. Implementing intensive grazing management and constructing the proposed rangeland developments on these allotments would increase AUMs to 8,650 in the long term.

From Land Ownership Adjustments. Impacts on rangeland resources from land disposals under *Alternative B* would be the same as those described under the *Preferred Alternative*.

Acquiring 3,680 acres of non-federal lands for the Nine-Mile and Muse allotments would enhance BLM's ability to manage the impacts of new rangeland developments on public rangelands respectively.

From Recreation. Under this alternative, all allotments would be subject to unrestricted ORV use. Off road travel would break the surface crust, making the allotment areas more vulnerable to wind and air erosion. Fences, windmills and corrals would be subject to vandalism over a wider area.

Impacts on rangeland production from ORV races held on the Parker 400 course would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

Conclusion. As a result of implementing *Alternative B's* grazing management provisions, long-term grazing capacity would be increased by 4,652 AUMs and ecological range condition on the two "I" allotments would improve to an unknown degree. However, land disposals could preclude future increases in livestock use of up to 1,000 AUMs under this alternative, leaving a net increase of only 3,652 AUMs.

Adverse impacts on rangeland production on all allotments would result from surface disturbances and vandalism associated with unrestricted ORV use.

Adverse impacts on rangeland production would also result from the congregation of spectators and vehicles along Osborne Wash during ORV races held on the Parker 400 course.

Beneficial impacts on rangeland resources would also result from the acquisition of 3,680 acres of non-federal land on the two "I" allotments.

IMPACTS ON RECREATION RESOURCES

From Wildlife Habitat. In *Alternative B*, assigning low priority to wildlife habitat could have both beneficial and adverse effects on recreational opportunities.

All riverfront lands on the Colorado River would be available for recreational development as a result of not designating riparian areas as priority wildlife habitat. Future demands for riverfront recreation could therefore be accommodated when they arise.

Hunting and fishing opportunities would decline in the long term as a result of favoring development over habitat protection. Existing data are inadequate for making projections concerning the level of these impacts.

From Special Management Areas. The special management area prescriptions in *Alternative B* would ensure that opportunities for primitive and semi-primitive non-motorized recreation activities continue to be available on 116,595 acres or almost 10% of public lands in the district (see *General Impacts on Recreation Resources*). Developments for all but wildlife, resource protection and mining purposes would be restricted and ORV use would be limited to existing roads and trails, thereby protecting the important resource values in these areas.

From Land Ownership Adjustment. Impacts on recreation resources from land ownership adjustments under *Alternative B* would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

From Recreation. Implementing the recreation provisions of *Alternative B* would have varied impacts upon recreation resources and users.

Recreational day-use opportunities could be lost by turning the BLM-operated areas at Empire Landing, Squaw Lake, and along the Parker Strip over to concession operation. Resource-based day-use recreation areas do not usually generate large revenues and profits (Clawson and Knetsch 1966). Accordingly, concession operators would be expected to favor overnight and other types of recreation developments — not necessarily resource-based development — which offer greater profit potential. Approximately 5,000 visitor days of recreational day use occur at these sites annually.

Allowing recreation development on additional public lands would help to ensure that sufficient opportunities are available to meet future growth in recreation demand. Present users would be displaced to an unknown extent, however, by not regulating the types and intensity of development on recreation concessions and leases. For example, converting campsites to mobile home sites would result in a change in clientele and in recreation opportunities available to the public. Accordingly, *Alternative B* would result in a loss of recreation opportunities for some present users. Uncertainty about the future, inadequate data and an absence of analagous situations elsewhere make this impact unquantifiable at this time.

Transferring **Pittsburg Point and the recreation leases** located on Lake Havasu out of federal ownership would result in a loss of recreation opportunities for present users if these lands were converted to other uses.

Unrestricted ORV use (open use) would be authorized on 1.17 million acres or 98% of BLM-administered lands in the district. BLM does not have accurate data on ORV use distribution or trends in the district. At present, most use occurs on an unauthorized basis near high-use camping areas along the river — Parker Strip (7,000 acres), Oxbow Lake (6,000 acres) and Senator Wash (2,000 acres). Open-intensive ORV use would continue to be concentrated in these areas. Assuming that ORV use would increase at a corresponding rate, growth in camping use would result in overcrowded ORV conditions and, consequently, increased probability of ORV-related accidents and injuries. In addition, allowing open-intensive ORV use in these areas could result in displacing a portion of present users due to noise and safety conditions. ORV use in backcountry areas would conflict periodically with primitive recreation activities such as camping and backpacking.

The impacts from the wood collection provisions of *Alternative B* would be the same as those described for *Alternative A*.

Conclusion. The wildlife and recreation management provisions of *Alternative B* would result in a loss of recreation opportunities. Hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities would decline as a result of placing low priority on the maintenance of wildlife habitat districtwide. Approximately 5,000 visitor days of day-use recreation opportunities would be lost as a result of turning current BLM-operated recreation sites over to concession operation. A portion of present recreation users would be displaced by not regulating the type or intensity of recreation development in concessions and leases.

Potential losses in developed water-based recreation opportunities could result in the long term if Pittsburg Point is transferred to the State of Arizona.

A decline in the physical attractiveness of existing high-use recreation areas would result from not regulating hobby and campfire wood collection in these areas.

Future growth in demand for recreation opportunities would be satisfied by allowing concessions and leases to expand onto additional BLM-administered lands.

IMPACTS ON NATURAL AREAS AND FEATURES

From Grazing. Adverse impacts from perennial-ephemeral grazing would occur on the Cactus Plain and La Posa Plain natural areas (see *General Impacts on Natural Areas and Features*). While the overall level of livestock use under Alternative B would not be expected to affect the stability of sand dunes in these areas, localized impacts on vegetation would be created from heavy livestock use around waters and salt licks and from trailing along fences. The extent to which these impacts would occur is currently unknown.

The construction of fences, waters and associated maintenance roads would have negative impacts on the visual quality of the area and open more of it up to vehicle traffic.

From Land Ownership Adjustments. Impacts on natural areas and features from land ownership adjustments under Alternative B would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

From Recreation. Under *Alternative B*, all natural areas would be adversely affected by unrestricted ORV use. The Cactus Plain (**76,060** acres), which is essentially an area of stabilized sand dunes, would be particularly susceptible to the impacts of unrestricted ORV use. Off-road travel would break the surface crust and destroy surface vegetation, making the area more vulnerable to wind and air erosion. Mountainous areas such as Crossman Peak and Muggins Mountains would be less susceptible to ORV impacts because travel would be generally constrained to washes.

Conclusion. Under *Alternative B*, adverse impacts on unique natural features in the Cactus Plain and La Posa Plain areas would result from perennial-ephemeral grazing and new range improvements.

Adverse impacts on natural features in the Cactus Plain and other areas would result from *Alternative B's* ORV use designations.

IMPACTS ON VEGETATION

From Special Management Areas. Under *Alternative B*, vegetation would be protected on **116,595** acres in three areas managed for protection of scenic and natural values (see *General Impacts on Vegetation*). Two unique plant communities would be protected as a result of special management guidelines for Cactus Plain. Actual or potential habitat for four T&E candidate species and one Bureau sensitive species would be maintained on **116,595** acres (see Table 4-17).

From Grazing. Implementation of this alternative would benefit range vegetation for livestock grazing on two "I" allotments (Ganado and Nine-Mile) involving approximately 104,000 public land acres. Vegetation on one "M" allotment (Muse) (107,600 acres) would continue to improve.

Intensive grazing management systems would be implemented to achieve both better distribution of livestock and desirable levels of livestock forage utilization. In the long term, applying intensive grazing management through allotment management plans (AMPs) on the two "I" allotments would improve livestock distribution. The vigor, reproduction and seedling establishment of key plant species would improve as a result.

Ecological rangeland condition would improve on the two "I" allotments. As key species regain vigor, new seedlings would become established and plant species that are undesirable for livestock forage would decrease. However, total plant cover would not change significantly in the long term. Ecological rangeland condition would continue to improve on the Muse allotment. Rangeland condition on the remaining 11 "C" allotments would not sharply change under this alternative.

Unique vegetation communities on stabilized sand dunes in the La Posa and Cactus Plains would be negatively affected by grazing. These communities evolved in the absence of domestic livestock grazing and could be affected by grazing through changes in species composition, plant frequency and cover. Insufficient data are available for estimating the magnitude of this impact.

Three T&E candidate species and one Bureau sensitive species could be negatively impacted as a result of grazing (see Table 4-17). Not enough is known about the relationship between livestock and the plant species in question to accurately assess the degree of impacts although it is thought to be negligible.

From Land Ownership Adjustments. Impacts on vegetation from land ownership adjustments would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

From Recreation. Allowing open ORV use on all federal lands would subject vegetation to potential damage by trampling, soil disturbance and erosion. This impact would be particularly severe in those areas of the district having soils that are highly susceptible to erosion or slopes greater than 30-35%.

Impacts on vegetation from competitive ORV events on the Parker 400 course would generally be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

Negative impacts on vegetation from unrestricted wood collection would occur on localized areas. LTVA's along the Colorado River and near Quartzsite would continue to receive heavy use and pressure from winter visitors collecting vegetation for firewood, carving, Saguaro and ocotillo fences, etc. Some of these areas are already impacted to

TABLE 4-17: IMPACTS ON T&E AND SENSITIVE PLANTS, ALTERNATIVE B
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Plant Species	Wildlife Habitat	SMAs	Grazing	R-O-Ws	Recreation
		Impacts			
Bursera microphylla**	0	+	0	U	-
Cereus greggii*	0	0	U	U	-
Coryphantha vivipara alversonii*	0	0	0	U	-
Euphorbia platysperma*	0	0	0	U	-
Ferocactus acanthodes acanthodes*	U	+	0	U	-
Helianthus niveus tephrodes*	0	+	0	U	-
Mentzelia nitens leptocaulis**	0	0	U	U	-
Opuntia wigginsii*	0	+	U	U	0
Palafoxia arida gigantea*	0	0	0	U	-
Polygonum fusiforme*	U	0	U	U	-
Rhus kearneyi**	0	+	0	U	-

+ = positive impacts
0 = no impact
- = negative impact
U = unknown impact
* = candidate federal T&E species
** = Bureau sensitive species
Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1984.

the extent that live vegetation is damaged by girdling and sawing in order to be used the following year. Unrestricted wood collection could also have a negative impact on riparian vegetation along the Colorado River and in washes due to over collection of this limited resource. No data are available to determine the amount and extent of damage to live vegetation from the areas that receive overuse.

Conclusion. Positive impacts on the vegetation resource would result from implementation of the special management area provisions of *Alternative B*.

Proposed grazing provisions would have beneficial impacts on vegetation except on the Cactus and La Posa Plains.

Adverse impacts on vegetation would result from **land disposals**, opening all suitable district lands to ORV use, and from increased numbers of spectators at races on the Parker 400 course.

Impacts on vegetation in LTVAs would be negative. However, impacts to the vegetation resource overall would be beneficial due to concentrating visitor impacts on relatively small areas of the district.

Impacts on vegetation in riparian areas and wooded desert washes from wood collection would be negative.

IMPACTS ON VISUAL RESOURCES

From Grazing. Under *Alternative B*, grazing 7,754 animal-unit months would create a temporary negative impact on the visual resources of four perennial-ephemeral allotments (all in Class III areas) by reducing the vegetative component of the landscape.

From Land Ownership Adjustments. Disposal of selected lands would result in transfer from the public domain of approximately 28,660 acres of VRM Class IV, 10,585 acres of Class III, and 18,565 acres of Class II landscapes. Class II areas consist of scattered parcels of agricultural land in the Yuma and Gila Valleys and Pittsburg Point on Lake Havasu.

From Recreation. Implementing *Alternative B's* concession management provisions would have negative impacts on visual resources. Under this alternative no limit would be put on the type or number of recreation concessions developed on public lands in VRM Class II areas along the Colorado River. Intensive development in existing concessions or elsewhere along the river would not be compatible with guidelines for VRM Class II areas.

Under *Alternative B*, all suitable public lands in the district would be open to ORV use. Visual resources that are subjected to high levels of ORV use would be adversely impacted by damage to the landscape's soil and vegetation.

Impacts on visual resources from *Alternative B's* wood collection provisions would be the same as those described for *Alternative A*.

Conclusion. Under *Alternative B*, adverse impacts on visual resources would result from new development in concession leases, intensive ORV use in open areas and the continuation of current wood collection management in high-use recreation areas.

Temporary adverse impacts on visual resources would result from intensive grazing of perennial-ephemeral allotments.

IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS

From Special Management Areas. Wilderness values on **five** WSAs would benefit from special management as described in *General Impacts on Wilderness* (see Table 4-8).

From Grazing. Wilderness values on the Cactus Plain WSA would be adversely affected by proposed rangeland developments under this alternative. Twenty-six miles of fence, two wells, and fourteen miles of pipeline would be developed to enhance grazing productivity. These range improvements would negatively impact the WSA's solitude and naturalness. In addition, the increase in animal-unit months (AUMs) would impact naturalness and unique plant communities in this WSA by reducing the amount of vegetation.

From Land Ownership Adjustments. Disposal of 3,325 acres in Area 11 could adversely impact wilderness values in the southwestern corner of the Cactus Plain WSA (see *Impacts of the Preferred Alternative* on Wilderness).

Land acquisitions for natural areas (**960** acres) would have positive impacts on wilderness (see Table 4-18). The wilderness characteristics of naturalness, solitude and primitive recreation would indirectly benefit by consolidating federal ownership and preventing activities that would be incompatible with management prescriptions that protect natural areas.

From Recreation. Under *Alternative B*, **all** 22 WSAs would be open to ORV use with few restrictions. **The WSAs could therefore** be subjected to negative impacts on naturalness and solitude. Factors that contribute to the present low ORV use in these areas, such as the distances from population centers and topographic constraints to use, would tend to reduce these impacts.

The Parker 400 race course would be designated as an ORV competitive use area available for multiple events annually. Impacts of this action would **be similar to those in the *Preferred Alternative*, but would have greater intensity because of the multiple events.**

Conclusion. Adverse impacts on wilderness values in the Cactus Plain WSA would result from an increase in AUMs, **the construction of new range improvements, and the disposal of 3,325 acres in its southwestern corner.**

Adverse impacts would result from unrestricted ORV use on **all 22** WSAs.

TABLE 4-18: LAND ACQUISITIONS BENEFITTING WILDERNESS VALUES, ALTERNATIVE B
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

	Acquisitions	
WSA	Acres	Purpose
East Cactus Plain	960	Natural Area
Total	960	

Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1984.

Holding multiple ORV competitive events annually on the Parker 400 course would result in temporary impacts from noise, dust and minor ORV travel on **five** WSAs.

Beneficial impacts on wilderness values would result from the protective management of unique natural areas; protective management would affect **116,595** acres on three WSAs.

Beneficial impacts would result from the acquisition of **960** acres in **one WSA** by helping to maintain wilderness values.

IMPACTS ON WILDLIFE

From Wildlife Habitat. Implementing *Alternative B's* management provisions for threatened and endangered (T&E) species would provide long-term benefits for the Yuma clapper rail on approximately 19,000 acres or 2% of the district by maintaining habitat conditions at current levels. Numerous other species of wildlife would also benefit from habitat protection for the Yuma clapper rail including such marsh-inhabiting species as the black rail, marsh wren, coot, gallinule and red-winged blackbird.

From Special Management Areas. Protective management of three unique natural areas under *Alternative B* would benefit wildlife on **116,595** acres or 10% of the district (see *General Impacts on Wildlife*).

Management of Crossman Peak for protection of scenic values under this alternative would have the same beneficial impacts on bighorn sheep as those described for special management area designation under the *Preferred Alternative*.

From Grazing. Increasing AUMs and constructing rangeland developments such as fences and waters on the Nine-Mile and Ganado allotments (204,065 acres) would have major negative impacts on wildlife. These actions would open new areas of the range to livestock use, causing direct competition with wildlife (primarily small mammals, non-game birds and reptiles). The number of areas with localized impacts to vegetation from trailing and overgrazing around fences and waters would increase. Increased fencing could also negatively impact deer movements.

Improved water distribution on the Nine-Mile and Ganado allotments could benefit such animals as large ungulates (hoofed animals), carnivores (meat-eating animals), and birds.

Current wildlife habitat conditions on the Muse allotment (134,256 federal acres) would remain unchanged because management of the allotment would not change.

From Land Ownership Adjustments. Disposal of 8,065 acres in Areas 3, 9, 10 and 11 under *Alternative B* could have negative impacts on wildlife in these areas if the acquiring entities' objectives do not include management for wildlife values. Area 3 is a vegetated wash that provides cover, forage and breeding habitat for such diverse species as mule deer, Gambel's quail, non-game birds, small mammals, carnivores, raptors and reptiles. Area 9 contains habitat for both bighorn sheep and mule deer. Area 10 contains scattered cattail-mesquite riparian communities that are important to both fisheries and wildlife. Area 11 contains a unique system of stabilized sand dunes.

Land acquisitions under this alternative would have negligible impacts on wildlife habitat.

From Recreation. Opening all suitable lands in the district (1,192,000 acres) to unrestricted ORV use under this alternative would result in negative impacts on wildlife through loss of habitat by vehicle caused soil erosion, destruction of vegetation and animal harassment.

Opening the Parker 400 course to yearlong use would adversely impact desert tortoises by causing further habitat destruction. Bighorn sheep and mule deer would be adversely impacted through noise disturbance and harassment.

Impacts on wildlife from *Alternative B's* provisions for wood collection would be the same as those described for *Alternative A*.

Conclusion. Under *Alternative B*, adverse impacts on wildlife would result from perennial-ephemeral grazing and new range improvements, the disposal of **8,065** acres of wildlife habitat, unrestricted ORV use on 1,084,170 acres, and opening the Parker 400 course to yearlong use.

Beneficial impacts on a total of **116,595** acres of wildlife habitat would result from protective management of unique natural areas.

Beneficial impacts on wildlife would also result from protection of the Yuma clapper rail habitat.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

From Grazing. The economic impacts of grazing management under *Alternative B* are summarized in Table 4-12.

The initial grazing stocking rate for perennial-ephemeral allotments would increase by 3,756 AUMs to 7,754 AUMs. Intensive grazing management and new rangeland developments would further increase forage production to

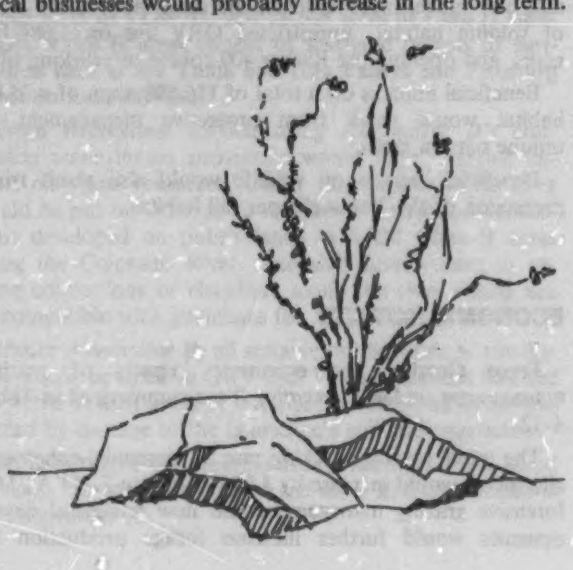
8,650 AUMs in the long term. In present dollars, the average annual value of range production or average annual income to ranchers over a 20-year period would be about $47,400 under this alternative.

From Land Ownership Adjustment. The economic impacts of land ownership adjustments are summarized in Table 4–13.

Land acquisitions and disposals under *Alternative B* could result in a net transfer of **56,190** acres of public lands — including 2,700 acres of irrigated agricultural lands — out of federal ownership. BLM estimates that the average value for agricultural lands would be $3,000 per acre and $150 per acre for the remaining lands. On the basis of these estimated values, **the sale of 2,700 acres of agricultural lands and 41,160 acres of public lands in Areas 1–9** would increase the tax revenues of counties in the economic study area by about **$250,000**. At the same time, payments in-lieu of taxes (PILT) on public lands to counties would decrease by about **$8,740**. **The transfer of 12,330 acres in Areas 10–12 to the state would have no impact upon the tax base and only a minor influence on the in lieu payments.**

Other local economic impacts resulting from the transfer of Disposal Areas 10–12 to the state would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

From Recreation. Under *Alternative B*, BLM would not unduly limit the type and intensity of recreation developments or the expansion of recreation concessions and leases onto additional public lands. As a result, the overall impact of BLM's recreation program on local and regional economies would likely be magnified. **However, if Pittsburg Point (1,100 acres) is transferred to the State of Arizona, BLM would exert less influence on the recreation program along the river. Since no significant change in management of these facilities is expected within the time frames of this plan, no short-term economic impacts are anticipated.** Annual revenue for concessions, leases and local businesses would probably increase in the long term. Due to limited data concerning future recreation demand on Yuma District and limited ability to project future development in the recreation program, the extent of economic impact cannot be determined at this time.



The local and regional economic benefits resulting from competitive ORV events held on the Parker 400 course would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

Conclusion. Under *Alternative B*, average annual revenue for ranchers would increase to $47,400 as a result of increased forage production and utilization. However, losses due to land disposals could reduce this figure to **$44,700.**

Land ownership adjustments could generate additional annual tax revenue of about **$250,000** while reducing PILT payments by **$8,740** for counties in the study area.

Local business revenues would probably increase as a result of unrestricted development and expansion of the district's recreation lease program, and use of the Parker 400 course for additional competitive race events during the year.

In the long term, transfer of Disposal Area 10 to the State of Arizona could result in increases in the local tax base and changes in recreation expenditures.

Impacts of Alternative C

In addition to the impacts described below, refer to the general impacts section relating to each relating to each resource for environmental consequences that apply to all alternatives.

IMPACTS ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

From Wildlife Habitat. Cultural resources on about 2,700 acres of federal lands known to have high or moderate cultural resource sensitivity would be indirectly protected by *Alternative C's* wildlife habitat management provisions (see *Preferred Alternative* for description).

From Special Management Areas. Cultural resources on 33 sites and areas totaling 6,800 acres would be protected in place as described in the *Preferred Alternative*.

Managing **214,880** acres for protection of natural values would indirectly protect cultural resources on about 10,280 acres or 21% of the total known area of high and moderate cultural resource sensitivity in the district (see Table 4-2 for affected areas). These areas would be protected by limiting allowable uses to those that are compatible or can be mitigated to preserve or enhance recognized values (see *General Impacts on Cultural Resources*). Important cultural resources that would be protected in these areas include petroglyphs, villages and intaglios.

From Grazing. Impacts on cultural resources from *Alternative C's* grazing provisions would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

From Land Ownership Adjustment. Impacts on cultural resources from land ownership adjustments under Alternative C would be the same as those delong-term camping use in the La Posa LTVA under *Alternative C* would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

From Rights-of-Way. The Mystic Maze intaglio is in the Interstate 40 corridor near Topock, Arizona and could be adversely impacted by the construction of new facilities. No other portions of the corridors have known cultural resources.

Impacts on cultural resources from communication site designations under *Alternative C* would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

From Recreation. Impacts on cultural resources from continued long-term camping use in the La Posa LTVA under *Alternative C* would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

The probability of ORV-related damage to cultural resources would increase by designating 960,165 acres of federal lands as open to unrestricted ORV use. This action would subject 36,400 acres known to have high and moderate cultural resource sensitivity to potential ORV-related damage.

Impacts on cultural resources from race events on the Parker 400 course would be the same as described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

Conclusion. Under *Alternative C,* about 20,000 acres or 35.5% of the total known area of cultural resource sensitivity in the district would be protected directly or indirectly by priority wildlife habitat and special management area actions.

Proposed grazing use would negatively impact known cultural resources on 5,000 acres in the Ganado allotment.

Disposal of Areas 5 and 7 could adversely affect cultural resources.

Adverse impacts to the Mystic Maze intaglio could result from new facility construction in the Interstate 40 corridor.

New facility development on the Black Peak **and Big Maria** communication sites would conflict with the spiritual values of Native American sacred areas.

Damage to cultural resources may occur as a result of concentrating long-term campers in the La Posa LTVA. However, this damage would be offset by the positive effects of eliminating this use elsewhere.

Designating ORV open-use areas would subject about 36,400 acres of known cultural resource sensitivity to negative impacts.

Cultural resources on about 5,000 acres would continue to be threatened from spectator activity associated with race events on the Parker 400 course.

IMPACTS ON MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES

From Wildlife Habitat. Impacts on mineral and energy development from implementation of *Alternative C's* wildlife habitat management provisions would be similar to those described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

From Special Management Areas. Impacts on mineral and energy development from managing 33 sites and areas for the protection of cultural resources under *Alternative C* would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.* Imposing no-surface-occupancy stipulations on 111,075 acres or 9% of the planning area would essentially withdraw the Cactus Plain SMA, which encompasses 75% of this acreage, from oil and gas exploration. Because the oil and gas potential in the district is estimated to be low, the anticipated impact would be negligible.

Conclusion. Under *Alternative C,* adverse impacts on mineral and energy development would result from closing 111,075 acres in special management areas to surface occupancy for oil and gas operations. Because of the overall low mineral potential of the areas affected, these impacts would be negligible.

IMPACTS ON RANGELAND RESOURCES

From Special Management Areas. No impacts on rangeland production are anticipated from *Alternative C's* provision for the management of areas to protect their unique natural features, because this management would not impose restrictions on livestock use or rangeland developments.

Fencing the La Posa Natural Area to exclude livestock grazing on 1,760 acres in the Nine-Mile allotment would negligibly impact the proposed grazing management for the allotment.

From Grazing. Impacts on rangeland production from grazing under *Alternative C* would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

From Land Ownership Adjustments. Acquiring 7,680 acres of non-federal lands on the two P-E allotments (Nine-Mile and Muse) would enhance the ability of BLM to administer grazing and control the placement of new rangeland developments (see Table 4-19).

TABLE 4-19: LAND ACQUISITIONS BENEFITTING
GRAZING PROGRAM, ALTERNATIVE C
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Allotment	P-E or E	Management Category	Acquisition Acres
Muse	P-E	M	4,960
Nine-Mile	P-E	I	2,720
Crossman Peak	E	C	160

Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1984.

From Recreation. *Alternative C's* provision to open approximately **960,165** acres of public land to ORV use would result in adverse impacts on rangeland production. Unrestricted ORV use in upland areas would result in vandalism such as cutting fences, destroying corrals, leaving gates open and shooting windmill blades.

Impacts on rangeland production from races on the Parker 400 course under *Alternative C* would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

Conclusion. As a result of implementing *Alternative C's* grazing management provisions, long-term grazing capacity would be increased by 3,756 AUMs and the vegetation cover of key forage species would improve.

Adverse impacts on grazing would result from vandalism on grazing allotments associated with unrestricted ORV use on **960,165** acres.

Adverse impacts on grazing would result from the congregation of spectators and vehicles along Osborne Wash during races held on the Parker 400 ORV course.

Beneficial impacts on rangeland production would also result from the acquisition of 7,680 acres of non-federal land in two P-E allotments.

IMPACTS ON RECREATION RESOURCES

From Wildlife Habitat. Impacts on recreation resources from managing riparian areas as priority wildlife habitat under *Alternative C* would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

Managing 11,100 acres of lambing grounds and 7,680 acres of migration corridor as priority wildlife habitat would result in an overall decline in hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities in the district. In particular, opportunities for recreational viewing of bighorn sheep would be reduced.

From Special Management Areas. Managing 12 natural areas, to protect scenic and natural values would help maintain opportunities for primitive and semi-primitive non-motorized recreation activities approximately **214,880** acres in the district (see *General Impacts on Recreation Resources*).

From Rights-of-Way. The impacts on recreation resources from utility corridor desginations under *Alternative C* would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

From Recreation. Resource-based recreational opportunities along the Colorado River would increase as a result of allowing concessions and leases to expand to adjacent public lands as the demand warrants. BLM data show that visitor use at concessions has increased at a rate of 1% annually. Assuming this trend continues, allowing concessions and leases to expand would be a significant beneficial action in that it would help to ensure that adequate land resources are available to accommodate growth in recreation demand.

Varied impacts would result from the implementation of ORV provisions in *Alternative C*. Open-intensive ORV use would be authorized on **960,165** acres or **80%** of BLM-administered lands in the district. At present, most use occurs on an unauthorized basis near high use camping areas along the river.

Assuming ORV use would increase at a corresponding rate, growth in camping use would result in overcrowded ORV conditions, and consequently, increased probability of ORV-related accidents and injuries. In addition, allowing open-intensive ORV use around high-use camping areas could result in displacing a portion of present users due to noise and safety conditions. Primitive (P) and semiprimitive non-motorized (SPNM; see *Appendix I*) recreation opportunities would be maintained by limiting ORV use to existing roads and trails in priority wildlife habitat areas and special management areas (**246,965** acres).

Protecting woody vegetation on 54,400 acres by not allowing collection for campfire use would have a positive effect on the attractiveness of La Posa Plain, Senator Wash and the Parker Strip recreation areas.

Conclusion. Under *Alternative C*, riverfront recreation opportunities would increase by allowing expansion or new development of recreation facilities on BLM-administered lands. Potential recreation opportunities lost as a result of riparian habitat management would be offset by these developments.

Hunting and wildlife viewing opportunities would decline as a result of placing less emphasis on wildlife habitat protection.

Congestion and increased probability of ORV-related accidents in and around high-use recreation areas would result from designating these areas open to ORV use. A portion of present recreation users would be displaced due to noise and safety conditions arising from increased ORV use.

Losses in long-term camping opportunities could result from locating transmission line facilities in the La Posa Plain LTVA.

The attractiveness of present high use recreation areas would be maintained or improved by eliminating wood collection for campfire purposes in these areas.

IMPACTS ON NATURAL AREAS AND FEATURES

From Wildlife Habitat. Under *Alternative C*, four natural areas would benefit from priority wildlife habitat management (see *General Impacts on Natural Areas and Features*). The Mesa (3,980 acres), Gibraltar Mountain (700 acres) and Crossman Peak (1,840 acres) would overlap either partially or completely with priority wildlife habitat for bighorn sheep. The Laguna-Martinez area (13,500 acres) would overlap completely with priority riparian habitat.

From Grazing. Adverse impacts from perennial-ephemeral grazing would occur on the Cactus Plain natural area (see *General Impacts on Natural Areas and Features*). These impacts would be similar to impacts described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

From Rights-of-Way. New facility construction in some of the utility corridors designated under *Alternative C* could adversely affect adjacent natural areas: facilities in the Interconnection corridor could affect scenic and primitive features in the Muggins Mountains; facilities in the Parker-Liberty Corridor could affect unique landforms and vegetation communities in the Cactus Plain, as well as unique scenic features in The Mesa and Gibraltar Mountain; facilities in the Parker-Davis B Corridor could affect scenic features in Crossman Peak. It is unknown to what extent new facility construction would affect these areas.

From Recreation. Prohibiting the collection of wood in riparian areas for home heating or campfire purposes would significantly benefit the Laguna-Martinez natural area by protecting riparian vegetation.

Conclusion. Under *Alternative C*, adverse impacts on unique natural features in the Cactus Plain area would result from perennial-ephemeral grazing and new rangeland developments.

Unique natural features in Muggins Mountains, Cactus Plain, the Mesa, Gibraltar Mountain and Crossman Peak could be adversely affected by the construction of new facilities within utility corridors designated under this alternative.

Beneficial impacts on unique natural features would result from priority wildlife habitat management. Approximately 15,340 acres of unique natural features in four areas would benefit from priority wildlife habitat management.

Beneficial impacts on unique natural features in the Laguna-Martinez area would result from the prohibition of wood collection in riparian areas.

IMPACTS ON VEGETATION

From Wildlife Habitat. Impacts on riparian vegetation and T&E plant species from priority wildlife habitat management under *Alternative C* would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

From Special Management Areas. Under this alternative, vegetation would be protected on **214,880** acres in 12 areas managed for protection of scenic and natural values (see *General Impacts on Vegetation*). Actual or potential habitat for eight T&E candidate species, and three Bureau sensitive species would be maintained on 193,750 acres (see Table 4-20).

From Grazing. Impacts on rangeland vegetation condition and trend, unique plant communities and T&E and sensitive plant species under *Alternative C* would be the

TABLE 4-20: IMPACTS ON T&E AND SENSITIVE PLANTS, ALTERNATIVE C
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Plant Species	Impacts				
	Wildlife Habitat	SMAs	Grazing	R-O-Ws	Recreation
Bursera microphylla**	0	+	0	U	-
Cereus greggii*	0	+	U	U	-
Coryphantha vivipara alversonii*	0	+	0	U	-
Euphorbia platysperma*	0	+	0	U	-
Ferocactus acanthodes acanthodes*	+	+	0	U	-
Helianthus niveus tephrodes*	0	+	0	U	-
Mentzelia nitens leptocaulis**	0	+	U	U	-
Opuntia wigginsii*	0	+	U	U	-
Palafoxia arida gigantea*	0	+	0	U	-
Polygonum fusiforme*	+	+	U	U	-
Rhus kearneyi**	0	+	0	U	-

+ = positive impact
0 = no impact
- = negative impact
U = unknown impact
* = candidate federal T&E species
** = Bureau sensitive species
Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1984.

same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*, **except that vegetation on all of the remaining 11 "C" allotments would continue to follow present trends and the unique vegetation community in the Cactus Plain (instead of the La Posa Plain) would be negatively affected.**

From Recreation. Impacts on vegetation from long-term camping in LTVAs would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

Allowing open ORV use on about **960,165** acres of federal land would subject vegetation to potential damage by trampling, soil disturbance and erosion. This impact would be particularly severe in those areas of the district having soils that are highly susceptible to erosion on slopes greater than 30-35%.

Impacts on vegetation from competitive ORV events on the Parker 400 course would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

Prohibiting firewood and hobbywood collection on 68,700 acres of federal lands would enhance revegetation by woody plants in the long term in these areas. Prohibiting fuelwood collection would help maintain existing vegetative cover in the district.

Conclusion. Positive impacts on vegetation would result from the wildlife habitat, special management area, and wood collection provisions of *Alternative C*.

The alternative's grazing provisions would have beneficial impacts on vegetation except on the Cactus Plain.

Adverse impacts on vegetation would result from unrestricted ORV use in "open" areas designated under this alternative, and from increased numbers of spectators at races on the Parker 400 course.

Impacts on vegetation in LTVAs would be negative. However, concentrating long-term visitor use on relatively small areas would have a beneficial impact on vegetation on the remainder of the district.

IMPACTS ON VISUAL RESOURCES

From Land Ownership Adjustments. Disposal of selected lands would result in transfer from the public domain of approximately 30,985 acres of Class IV and 14,495 acres of Class II landscapes. Class II areas consist of scattered parcels of agricultural land in the Yuma and Gila Valleys.

From Rights-of-Way. New facility construction in utility corridors designated under *Alternative C* could adversely affect up to 17,280 acres in VRM Class II areas and 84,480 acres in VRM Class III areas (see Table 4-6 and *General Impacts on Visual Resources*). Impacts on visual resources from communication site designations would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

From Recreation. Impacts on visual resources from *Alternative C's* recreation development provisions would be the same as those described for *Alternative A*.

Approximately **960,165** acres would be designated as open to unrestricted ORV use under this alternative. Intensive ORV use on these areas would negatively impact soil and vegetative components of the landscape.

Impacts from *Alternative C's* wood collection management provisions would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

Conclusion. Adverse impacts on visual resources would result from new facility construction in utility corridors and communication sites designated under *Alternative C*.

Adverse impacts on visual resources would result from intensive ORV use in areas designated as open to unrestricted ORV use.

Beneficial impacts on visual resources would result from prohibiting wood collection in high-use recreation areas.

IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS

From Wildlife Habitat. Beneficial impacts on wilderness values in **six** WSAs would result from priority wildlife habitat management. Three miles of the Bill Williams River riparian zone in the Swansea WSA **(160** acres) and desert bighorn sheep lambing grounds in the Gibraltar Mountain, **Mohave Wash** and Crossman Peak WSAs (approximately **6,240** acres) would be managed as priority wildlife habitat. The effect of these actions would be to help prevent degradation of wilderness values.

Management of the Castle Dome bighorn sheep migration route, in the Kofa Unit 4 **North and Kofa Unit 4 South WSAs**, would help to protect wilderness values on these WSAs as well.

From Special Management Areas. Wilderness values on **eight** WSAs would benefit as a result of management of the areas to protect scenic and natural values under *Alternative C* (see Table 4-8 and *General Impacts on Wilderness*).

From Grazing. Twelve WSAs are located either partially or completely in grazing allotments. Wilderness values would be unimpaired by grazing use since no change in authorized AUMs is proposed under this alternative.

From Land Ownership Adjustments. Land acquisitions made for wildlife habitat **and natural areas (4,000** acres) would have positive impacts on the wilderness resource (see Table 4-21). The wilderness characteristics of naturalness, solitude and primitive recreation would indirectly benefit from consolidation of federal ownership and prevention of activities that would be incompatible with priority wildlife habitat management **and management prescriptions that protect natural areas.**

From Rights-of-Way. Utility corridors would form the boundaries for portions of **10** WSAs. Construction of new facilities in these corridors would add to sights and sounds of man, and therefore slightly degrade solitude within the areas.

TABLE 4-21: LAND ACQUISITIONS BENEFITTING WILDERNESS VALUES, ALTERNATIVE C
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

WSA	Acquisition Acres	Acquisition Purpose
Crossman Peak	640	Wildlife
Cactus Plain	2,720	Natural Area
East Cactus Plain	640	Natural Area
Total	4,000	

Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1984.

From Recreation. Under *Alternative C*, ORV use on **all or parts of nine** WSAs (approximately **155,680** acres) would be limited to existing or designated roads and trails due to priority wildlife habitat and special management area status. This would help to protect wilderness values as described in the *Preferred Alternative*.

The 13 WSAs that are unprotected by priority wildlife habitat or special management area status would be open to ORV use without restrictions and would therefore be subject to negative impacts on naturalness and solitude. However, the probability of negative impacts occurring as a result of open ORV use is small due to distance from population centers and topographic constraints to vehicular access.

The Parker 400 race course would be designated as an ORV competitive-use area under *Alternative C*. Impacts of this action would include disturbance of solitude in the proposed Cactus Plain and East Cactus Plain WSAs from temporary increases in outside sights and sounds (noise and dust), and minor ORV travel by spectators along the northern fringe of the Cactus Plain and eastern corner of the East Cactus Plain WSAs. Naturalness, solitude and primitive recreation opportunities in the Gibraltar Mountain and Swansea WSAs would be similarly affected.

Conclusion. Adverse impacts on wilderness values in **ten** WSAs would result from constructing new utility facilities in corridors that border WSAs.

Adverse impacts on wilderness values in 13 WSAs could result from unrestricted ORV use. Temporary adverse impacts from noise, dust and minor ORV travel on the Parker 400 race course would affect **five** WSAs.

Wilderness values would benefit from priority wildlife habitat management and protective management of unique natural areas. Priority wildlife habitat management would affect **6,240** acres on six WSAs. Protective management would affect about **152,800** acres on **eight** WSAs.

Beneficial impacts on wilderness values would result from the acquisition of **4,000** acres in **three** WSAs.

Beneficial impacts on wilderness values would result from limiting ORV use to existing or designated roads and trails.

IMPACTS ON WILDLIFE

From Wildlife Habitat. Priority management of aquatic and riparian habitat under *Alternative C* would provide significant long-term benefits for wildlife on **23,100** acres or approximately **2%** of the district (see *General Impacts on Wildlife*).

Priority management of riparian habitat under *Alternative C* would also sustain the population of the Yuma clapper rail (see *General Impacts on Wildlife*).

Priority management of terrestrial wildlife habitat under *Alternative C* would provide long-term benefits for wildlife in the Yuma District by protecting habitat conditions on certain key areas. Managing lambing grounds in the Aubrey Hills and in the Bill Williams, Mohave and Buckskin Mountains would benefit bighorn sheep on 11,069 acres or 1% of the district by protecting seasonally critical breeding habitat. In addition, seasonal closure of roads during the bighorn lambing period (1/1 to 6/30) would significantly benefit sheep reproduction on 11,069 acres (see Map 4). Management of the Castle Dome migration route (7,680 acres) as priority wildlife habitat would benefit bighorn sheep and mule deer by continuing to allow normal movement patterns between the Chocolate and Castle Dome Mountains.

From Special Management Areas. Protective management of 12 unique natural areas under *Alternative C* would benefit wildlife on **214,880** acres or **18%** of the district (see *General Impacts on Wildlife*).

Management of Crossman Peak to protect scenic values under this alternative would have the same beneficial impacts on bighorn sheep as those described for special management area designation under the *Preferred Alternative*.

From Grazing. The development of allotment management plans and the subsequent construction of rangeland developments such as fences and waters on the Nine-Mile and Ganado allotments (204,065 federal acres) would have minor negative impacts on wildlife. These actions would open new areas of the range to livestock use, causing direct competition with wildlife (primarily small mammals, nongame birds and reptiles). The number of areas with localized impacts to vegetation from trailing and overgrazing around fences and waters would increase. Increased fencing could also negatively impact deer movements.

Improved water distribution on the Nine-Mile and Ganado allotments could benefit such animals as large ungulates (hoofed animals) and carnivores (meat-eating animals), as well as birds.

Current wildlife habitat conditions on the Muse grazing allotment (134,256 federal acres) would remain essentially unchanged under this alternative.

From Land Ownership Adjustment. Disposal of 3,640 acres in Areas 3 and 9 under *Alternative C* could have negative impacts for the wildlife on these areas if the acquiring entities' objectives do not include management for wildlife values (see *Impacts of the Preferred Alternative* on Wildlife).

The acquisition of 640 acres in the Mohave Mountains under this alternative would primarily benefit bighorn sheep by consolidating habitat and halting encroachment from other uses.

From Rights-of-Way. Impacts from designating utility corridors and communication sites under Alternative C would generally be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*. In addition, selection of route "B" for the Parker-Davis corridor under this alternative would adversely impact wildlife values in the undisturbed area to the east of Lake Havasu city. The construction of facilities along this corridor route would improve vehicle access to the foothills of the Mohave Mountains causing a direct conflict with bighorn sheep, mule deer and tortoise habitat. The increased presence of man would cause loss of habitat (loss of vegetation) and harassment of wildlife.

From Recreation. Opening the majority of the Yuma District (960,165 acres) to unrestricted ORV use under *Alternative C* would result in negative impacts on wildlife through loss of habitat by vehicle-caused soil erosion, destruction of vegetation and animal harrassment.

Impacts on wildlife from the designation of ORV competitive use areas under *Alternative C* would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

Impacts from *Alternative C's* provisions for wood collection would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

Conclusion. Adverse impacts on wildlife would result from the disposal of 3,640 acres of wildlife habitat, constructing new utilities in the Parker-Liberty, Parker-Blaisdell and Parker-Davis B corridors, unrestricted ORV use on 960,165 acres, and competitive events on the Parker 400 course.

Beneficial impacts on a total of 246,965 acres of wildlife habitat would result from priority management of riparian and terrestrial habitat and protective management of unique natural areas.

Beneficial impacts on wildlife would also result from the acquisition of 640 acres of wildlife habitat and from restrictions on wood collection.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

From Grazing. The economic impacts from grazing management under *Alternative C* would be the same as these described for the *Preferred Alternative* (see Table 4-12).

From Land Ownership Adjustment. The economic impacts of land ownership adjustments are summarized in Table 4-13.

Land acquisitions and disposals under *Alternative C* could result in a net transfer of 38,100 acres of public lands — including 2,700 acres of agricultural lands — out of federal ownership. The sale of these lands would increase county tax bases in the study area. BLM estimates that the average value for agricultural lands would be $3,000 per acre and $150 per acre for the remaining lands. On the basis of these estimated values, tax revenues of counties in the economic study area would increase by about $235,200. At the same time, payments in-lieu of taxes (PILT) on public lands to counties would decrease by about $7,700.

From Recreation. Allowing the recreation concession and lease program to expand to meet future growth in demand would increase the share of local and regional retail and services trade attributable to BLM's recreation program. The magnitude and significance of this change cannot be estimated at this time due to limited knowledge concerning future recreation demands.

Encouraging a shift from mobile home sites to RV and campsites in order to increase the recreation capacity of concessions and leases would have the same impacts as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

Use of the Parker 400 race course for one major event per year would maintain the present annual contribution of approximately $125,000 to the local Parker and study area economies. The value of race-related expenditures to the study area is negligible since these expenditures represent only .5% of the total annual retail and services sector receipts for Parker.

Conclusion. Recreation concession and local retail and services sector revenues could decline as a result of encouraging a shift to RV or campsites in place of mobile home sites. However, the overall local and regional economic impact of these losses would be negligible.

Increased forage production from intensive grazing management practices would provide ranchers with a net average annual revenue of about $45,700.

Land ownership adjustments under *Alternative C* could generate additional revenue of about $235,200 while reducing PILT payments by $7,700 for counties in the study area.

Impacts of Alternative D

In addition to the impacts described below refer to the general impacts section relating to each resource for environmental consequences that apply to all alternatives.

IMPACTS ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

From Wildlife Habitat. Impacts on cultural resources from priority wildlife habitat management under *Alternative D* would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

From Special Management Areas. Cultural resources on 33 sites and areas totaling 6,800 acres would be protected in place as described in the *Preferred Alternative.*

Impacts on cultural resources from special management area designations under *Alternative D* would be generally the same as those described for management of the areas to protect their scenic and natural values under *Alternative C.*

From Grazing. Impacts on cultural resources from grazing under *Alternative D* would be similar to those described for the *Preferred Alternative.* However, the probability of impacts occurring would be slightly less due to a reduction in the authorized stocking rate.

From Land Ownership Adjustment. Impacts on cultural resources from land ownership adjustments under Alternative D would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

From Rights-of-Way. Impacts on cultural resources from utility corridor and communication site designations under *Alternative D* would be the same as those described for *Alternative C.*

From Recreation. Impacts on cultural resources from continued camping use in the La Posa LTVA under *Alternative D* would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

Impacts on cultural resources from ORV use designations would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

Impacts from the annual competitive ORV event held on the Parker 400 course would be similar to those described for events held on the course under the *Preferred Alternative.*

Conclusion. Under *Alternative D*, about **20,235** acres or **34.6%** of the total known area of cultural resource sensitivity in the district would be protected directly or indirectly by priority wildlife habitat and special management area actions.

Proposed grazing use would negatively impact known cultural resources in the Ganado allotment.

Disposal of Areas 5 and 7 could adversely affect cultural resources.

The Mystic Maze intaglio could be adversely affected by the construction of new transmission facilities in the Interstate 40 corridor.

New facility development on Black Peak **and Big Maria** communication sites would conflict with the spiritual values of Native American sacred areas.

Damage to cultural resources may occur as a result of concentrating long-term campers in the La Posa LTVA. However, this damage would be offset by positive effects of eliminating this use elsewhere.

Important cultural resources would be protected by the designation of 22,240 acres as "closed" to ORV use.

Spectators at the annual race on the Parker 400 course would subject known cultural resources on 5,000 acres to damage from surface-disturbing activities or loss as a result of vandalism.

IMPACTS ON MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES

From Wildlife Habitat. The no-surface-occupancy stipulation for oil and gas leases and the seasonal closure of roads on 11,100 acres of bighorn sheep lambing grounds under *Alternative D* would affect mineral and energy development in the same way as described in the *Preferred Alternative.*

From Special Management Areas. Impacts on mineral and energy development from managing 33 sites and areas for the protection of cultural resources under *Alternative D* would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

The closure of 12 special management areas totaling **214,880** acres or **18%** of the district to surface occupancy for oil and gas operations would inhibit future exploration and production efforts for these energy resources because some of these areas are so large that even directional drilling would not be an alternative for exploration (see *General Impacts on Mineral and Energy Resources*).

Conclusion. Under *Alternative D*, adverse impacts on mineral and energy development would result from closing **214,880** acres in special management areas to surface occupancy for oil and gas operations.

IMPACTS ON RANGELAND RESOURCES

From Special Management Areas. Impacts on rangeland resources from designating the 84,095-acre Cactus Plain area as a special management area would be the same as those described for managing the area under special management prescriptions under the *Preferred Alternative.*

Fencing the La Posa Plain area to exclude livestock would adversely affect 1,760 acres of the Nine-Mile allotment. However, the overall impact of this action on proposed grazing management for the allotment would be negligible.

From Grazing. This alternative proposes a 40% reduction in authorized grazing preference from 3,998 to 2,459 AUMs.

Areas such as Bouse Wash in the Nine-Mile allotment and Osborne Wash in the Ganado allotment, involving approximately 12,000 acres, have historically received the bulk of the grazing use. These areas would receive less use and be allowed to rest. Trends in ecological rangeland condition and forage production would consequently improve in these areas. New rangeland developments would control livestock drift and improve livestock distribution, allowing the more heavily used areas to receive periods of rest and lighter use overall. Through implementation of AMPs an increase of approximately 1,756 AUMs or 44% above the current active preference would be realized in the long term.

Grazing management on the Muse ("M") and Bishop ("C") allotments would not change. This would not preclude them from obtaining needed rangeland developments. Over time, the improved perennial forage production and rest for pastures at critical growth periods would increase weight gains and reduce death losses in livestock.

The remaining ten ephemeral allotments ("C" category) would not be affected. They would continue to be managed in accordance with the special ephemeral rule.

From Land Ownership Adjustments. Acquiring approximately 23,180 acres of non-federal lands on seven ephemeral allotments could enhance grazing by allowing more livestock to be grazed on newly acquired land. Crossman Peak and Planet allotments would be most beneficially impacted (see Table 4-22).

Acquiring 6,440 acres of non-federal lands on two P-E allotments (Nine-Mile and Muse) would enhance the ability of BLM to administer grazing and control the placement of new rangeland developments (see Table 4-22).

From Recreation. Impacts on rangeland production from the annual ORV race on the Parker 400 course would generally be the same as those described for races held on the course under the *Preferred Alternative*.

Conclusion. As a result of implementing *Alternative D's* grazing management provisions, long-term grazing capacity on the two "I" allotments would be increased by 1,756 AUMs and ecological rangeland conditions would improve. However, special management area restrictions on the Cactus Plain could preclude future increases in livestock use of up to 2,400 AUMs, leaving a net loss of 644 AUMs.

TABLE 4-22: LAND ACQUISITIONS BENEFITTING GRAZING PROGRAM, ALTERNATIVE D
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Allotment	P-E or E	Management Category	Acquisition Acres
Nine-Mile	P-E	I	2,600
Muse	P-E	M	4,320
Primrose	E	C	640
Scott	E	C	2,800
Planet	E	C	5,760
Crossman Peak	E	C	5,280
Havasu Heights S.	E	C	1,280
Silver Creek	E	C	4,480
Thumb Butte	E	C	1,280

Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1984.

Adverse impacts on rangeland production would result from the congregation of spectators and vehicles along Osborne Wash during the annual race held on the Parker 400 course.

Beneficial impacts on rangeland production would also result from acquiring 23,180 acres of non federal land in seven E allotments and 6,440 acres of non-federal land in two P-E allotments.

IMPACTS ON RECREATION RESOURCES

From Wildlife Habitat. Impacts on recreation resources from priority wildlife habitat management under *Alternative D* would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

From Special Management Areas. Impacts on recreation resources and opportunities from special management area designations under *Alternative D* would generally be the same as those described for management of the areas to protect their scenic and natural values under *Alternative C*.

From Rights-of-Way. Impacts on recreation resources from utility corridor designations would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

From Recreation. Under *Alternative D*, recreation development would not be allowed to expand to additional BLM-administered lands. Future growth in demand for riverfront recreation and long-term camping would have to be accommodated in existing recreation sites or go unfulfilled. Visitor use data for the period 1978-1983 indicate an average annual increase in visitor use of 1% at recreation concession areas and 6% at LTVAs in the district. Assuming these trends continue, overcrowding would occur, resulting in a decline in the attractiveness of existing sites. Some displacement of present users would occur, however, existing data are not sufficient for estimating the magnitude of this impact.

Although no areas are presently targeted for closure, overcrowding could cause natural resource and visitor-use management problems in existing areas. BLM would respond to these problems by closing these areas, thereby eliminating riverfront recreation and long-term camping opportunities for the public.

Overnight occupancy rates would decline as a result of moving RV sites and campsites out of the floodplain. Unlike the *Preferred Alternative*, this impact would be long term in nature since additional federal lands would not be available for relocating overnight facilities from the floodplain.

Impacts on ORV use opportunities would be the same as those described in the *Preferred Alternative*.

Protecting woody vegetation on 54,400 acres by not allowing collection for campfire use would have a positive effect on the attractiveness of La Posa Plain, Senator Wash and the Parker Strip recreation areas.

Conclusion. Adverse impacts on recreation resources and opportunities would occur as a result of implementing *Alternative D*.

The wildlife habitat and recreation management guidelines in *Alternative D* would have negative effects on recreation resources. Restricting recreation development to existing developed areas would result in: a) unmet demand, b) overcrowding and therefore declining attractiveness of existing recreation areas and c) displacement of a portion of present users. Overnight riverfront opportunities would be lost as a result of moving existing overnight facilities out of the floodplain.

The demand for authorized open-intensive ORV opportunities near camping areas would not be satisfied. However, by not designating areas in and around high-use camping areas as open, additional conflicts between ORV use and other recreation opportunities would be avoided.

Potential losses in long-term camping opportunities would result from locating new transmission lines in the Parker-Blaisdell corridor.

IMPACTS ON NATURAL AREAS AND FEATURES

From Wildlife Habitat. Under *Alternative D*, six natural areas would benefit from priority wildlife habitat management (see *General Impacts on Natural Areas and Features*). The Mesa (10,400 acres), Planet Peak (6,400 acres), Aubrey Hills (13,440 acres), Whipple Mountains (5,760 acres) and Crossman Peak (15,500 acres) would overlap either partially or completely with priority wildlife habitat for bighorn sheep. The Laguna-Martinez area (313,500 acres) would overlap completely with priority riparian habitat.

From Grazing. Adverse impacts from perennial-ephemeral grazing would occur on the Cactus Plain natural area (see *General Impacts on Natural Areas and Features*). These impacts would be similar to impacts described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

From Recreation. Prohibiting the collection of wood in riparian areas for fuel would benefit the Laguna-Martinez natural area by protecting riparian vegetation.

Conclusion. Under *Alternative D*, adverse impacts on unique natural features in the Cactus Plain area would result from perennial-ephemeral grazing and new rangeland developments.

Beneficial impacts on unique natural features would result from priority wildlife habitat management designations; approximately 59,100 acres of unique natural features in six areas would benefit from priority wildlife habitat management.

Beneficial impacts on unique natural features in the Laguna-Martinez area would result from the prohibition of wood collection in riparian areas.

IMPACTS ON VEGETATION

From Wildlife Habitat. Impacts on riparian vegetation and T&E plant species from priority wildlife habitat management under *Alternative D* would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative* (see Table 4-23).

From Special Management Areas. Impacts on unique plant communities and T&E and Bureau sensitive plant species from special management area designations under *Alternative D* would generally be the same as those described for management of the areas to protect their scenic and natural values under *Alternative C* (see Table 4-23).

From Grazing. Impacts on vegetation from grazing under *Alternative D* would be similar to those described for *Alternative C*, but improvement would occur at a slower rate. Vegetation near water sources would be rested during critical growth periods thereby allowing the plants to gain vigor and establish new seedlings. Vegetation on "M" and "C" allotments would continue existing trends in ecological rangeland condition under this alternative.

The impacts on unique plant communities and T&E and sensitive plant species would be similar to those described for the *Preferred Alternative* except that the unique vegetation community in the La Posa Plain would not be affected (see Table 4-23). Since the authorized grazing preference would be less in *Alternative D*, the degree and probability of these impacts would be correspondingly less.

From Recreation. Impacts on vegetation from long-term camping in LTVAs would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

TABLE 4-23: IMPACTS ON T&E AND SENSITIVE PLANTS, ALTERNATIVE D
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

	Impacts				
Plant Species	Wildlife Habitat	SMAs	Grazing	R-O-Ws	Recreation
Bursera microphylla**	0	+	0	U	0
Cereus greggii*	0	+	U	U	-
Coryphantha vivipara alversonii*	U	+	U	U	-
Euphorbia platysperma*	0	+	0	U	0
Ferocactus acanthodes acanthodes*	+	+	0	U	-
Helianthus niveus tephrodes*	0	+	0	U	0
Mentzelia nitens leptocaulis**	0	+	U	U	0
Opuntia wigginsii*	0	+	U	U	-
Palafoxia arida gigantea*	0	+	0	U	0
Polygonum fusiforme*	+	+	U	U	0
Rhus kearneyi**	0	+	0	U	0

+ = positive impact
0 = no impact
- = negative impact
U = unknown impact
* = candidate federal T&E species
** = Bureau sensitive species
Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1984.

Impacts on vegetation from the annual competitive ORV event on the Parker 400 course would generally be the same as those described for competitive events held on the course under the *Preferred Alternative*.

Guidelines for management of wood collection would have the same beneficial effects on vegetation as those described for *Alternative C*.

Conclusion. Positive impacts on vegetation would result from the wildlife habitat, special management area and wood collection provisions of *Alternative D*.

The alternative's grazing provisions would have beneficial impacts on vegetation.

Impacts on vegetation in LTVAs would be negative. However, impacts on the vegetation resource overall would be beneficial due to concentrating visitor impacts in relatively small areas of the district.

IMPACTS ON VISUAL RESOURCES

From Land Ownership Adjustments. Disposal of selected lands would result in transfer from the public domain of approximately 27,345 acres of Class IV and 14,495 acres of Class II landscapes. Class II areas consist of scattered parcels of agricultural land in the Yuma and Gila Valleys.

From Rights-of-Way. New facility construction in utility corridors designated under *Alternative D* could adversely affect up to 17,280 acres in VRM Class II areas and 84,480 acres in VRM Class III areas (see Table 4-6 and *General Impacts on Visual Resources*).

New facility construction on communication sites designated under *Alternative D* could adversely affect three sites in VRM Class II areas and three sites in VRM Class III areas (see Table 4-7 and *General Impacts on Visual Resources*).

From Recreation. Impacts on visual resources from *Alternative D's* ORV use designations would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

Impacts on visual resources from wood collection under *Alternative D* would generally be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

Conclusion. Adverse impacts on visual resources would result from new facility construction in utility corridors and communication sites designated under *Alternative D*.

Beneficial impacts on visual resources would result from prohibiting wood collection in high-use recreation areas.

IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS

From Wildlife Habitat. Impacts on wilderness from wildlife habitat provisions under *Alternative D* are the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

From Special Management Areas. Wilderness values in **nine** WSAs would benefit as a result of special management area designations under *Alternative D* (see Table 4-8 and *General Impacts on Wilderness*).

From Grazing. Twelve WSAs are located either partially or completely in grazing allotments. Wilderness values would be unimpaired by grazing use under the stocking levels in this alternative.

From Land Ownership Adjustment. Land acquisitions made for **natural areas** and wildlife habitat **(36,200** acres surface and 6,020 subsurface) would indirectly benefit wilderness characteristics of naturalness, solitude and primitive recreation by consolidating federal ownership within and adjacent to WSAs and preventing activities incompatible with priority wildlife habitat **and natural area** management (see Table 4-24).

TABLE 4-24: LAND ACQUISITIONS BENEFITTING WILDERNESS VALUES, ALTERNATIVE D
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

WSA	Acquisitions	
	Acres	Purpose
Crossman Peak	15,840*	Wildlife
Mohave Wash	10,000	Wildlife
Gibraltar Mountain	6,020**	Wildlife/ Natural Areas
Cactus Plain	2,720	Natural Area
Swansea	640	Natural Areas
East Cactus Plain	960	Natural Area
South Trigo Mountains	1,230	Wildlife
Trigo Mountains	1,210	Wildlife/ Natural Areas
Total	38,620	

*Includes acquisition of land possessing wilderness values outside of present WSA.
**Acquisition of mineral estate only.
Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1984.

From Rights-of-Way. Utility corridors would form the boundaries for portions of **11** WSAs. Construction of new facilities in these corridors would add to the sights and sounds of man, and therefore slightly degrade solitude within the areas.

From Recreation. ORV use on **all** 22 WSAs would be limited to existing or designated roads and trails under Alternative D. This action would prevent or slow down the creation of new vehicle ways and thus reduce soil disturbance and erosion, vegetation damage, wildlife habitat changes and archaeologic site disturbance that impact the wilderness qualities of naturalness and solitude.

The Parker 400 race course would be designated as an ORV competitive use area under *Alternative D*. Impacts of this action would include disturbance of solitude in the Cactus Plain, East Cactus Plain, Swansea, **Planet Peak** and Gibraltar Mountain WSAs. Temporary increases in outside sights and sounds (noise and dust) and minor ORV travel by spectators along the northern fringe of the Cactus Plain WSA, eastern corner of the East Cactus Plain WSA, and southern fringe of the Gibraltar Mountain and **Planet Peak** WSAs would result in temporary losses of solitude and naturalness in these areas.

Conclusion. Adverse impacts on **11** WSAs would result from construction of facilities in designated utility corridors that border WSAs.

Temporary adverse impacts on **five** WSAs would result from noise, dust and minor ORV travel associated with the Parker 400 race course.

Beneficial impacts on wilderness values would result from priority wildlife habitat management **and special management area** designations. Priority habitat management would affect ten WSAs. Special management area designations would affect eight WSAs.

Beneficial impacts on wilderness values would result from acquiring **36,200** acres of surface and 6,020 acres of subsurface in six WSAs.

Beneficial impacts on wilderness values would result from limiting ORV use to existing or designated roads and trails.

IMPACTS ON WILDLIFE

From Wildlife Habitat. Impacts on wildlife from priority wildlife habitat management under *Alternative D* would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

From Special Management Areas. Designating 12 unique natural areas as special management areas under *Alternative D* would indirectly benefit wildlife on **214,880** acres or **18%** of the district (see *General Impacts on Wildlife*).

From Grazing. Reducing current authorized AUMs by 40% under *Alternative D* would generally benefit wildlife by increasing forage and cover available for wildlife needs. Light grazing by livestock would benefit wildlife in some cases by stimulating new growth on grazed plants which are of a high nutritional quality.

From Land Ownership Adjustment. Acquisitions totaling **30,100** acres under *Alternative D* would benefit wildlife because the lands would be managed with priority emphasis on wildlife habitat and habitat would be consolidated, thus halting encroachment from other uses. These acquisitions would involve important bighorn sheep, mule deer and riparian habitat.

From Rights-of-Way. Impacts on wildlife from designating utility corridors and communication sites under *Alternative D* would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

From Recreation. Opening 640 acres to unrestricted ORV use under *Alternative D* would result in negligible adverse impacts on wildlife.

Limiting competitive ORV use to one annual event on the Parker 400 course would generally benefit wildlife by limiting the intensity of adverse impacts from this kind of recreational use. However, some site-specific adverse impacts to wildlife would continue to occur as a result of the annual event. This vehicle caused habitat degradation would include vegetation destruction, soil erosion and wildlife harassment.

Impacts from *Alternative D's* provisions for wood collection would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

Conclusion. Adverse impacts on wildlife would result from new facilities in the Parker-Liberty and Parker-Blaisdell corridors, and the annual competitive event on the Parker 400 course.

Beneficial impacts on a total of **442,580** acres of wildlife habitat would result from priority management of riparian and terrestrial habitat and special management area designations. Priority wildlife habitat management would also protect the Yuma clapper rail and other sensitive species. Beneficial impacts on wildlife would also result from: a) reducing current grazing use by 40%, b) acquiring **30,100** acres of wildlife habitat and c) restricting wood collection.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

From Special Management Areas. Economic impacts from designating the 84,095-acre Cactus Plain area as a special management area would be the same as those described for managing the area under special management prescriptions under the *Preferred Alternative*.

From Grazing. The economic impacts of grazing management under *Alternative D* are summarized in Table 4-12.

The initial grazing stocking rate for perennial-ephemeral (P-E) allotments would be reduced from 3,998 to 2,459 AUMs. However, through the implementation of allotment management plans for two P-E allotments, forage production would be increased over the initial stocking rate by 3,295 AUMs in the long term. Increased forage would mean increased revenue for ranchers in the long term. In present dollars, the average annual value of range production or annual income to ranchers over a 20-year period would be about $32,800 under this alternative.

From Land Ownership Adjustment. The economic impacts of land ownership adjustments are summarized in Table 4-13.

Land acquisitions and disposals under *Alternative D* could result in a net acquisition or transfer of 2,260 acres of private lands into federal ownership. Acquisition of private lands by the federal government would decrease county tax bases. On the basis of an estimated value of $150 per acre, tax revenues of counties in the study area would be reduced by about $6,000. At the same time, payments in-lieu of taxes (PILT) on public lands would increase by about $450.

From Recreation. Overnight occupancy rates at recreation concessions would be likely to decline at least in the short term as a result of moving RV and campsites out of the floodplain to less desirable locations away from the river. Due to limited ability to project the probable shifts that would occur in recreation demand, the extent and significance of losses in concession and local business receipts cannot be estimated at this time.

Encouraging a shift in the recreation concessions and leases from mobile home to RV or campsites would have the same economic impacts as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

Use of the Parker 400 race course for one major event per year would have the same economic impacts as those described for *Alternative C.*

Conclusion. Recreation concession and local retail and services sector revenues could decline as a result of moving overnight facilities out of the floodplain and encouraging a shift to RV or campsites in place of mobile home sites.

Increased forage production from intensive grazing management practices would provide ranchers with a net average annual revenue of about $32,800. However, losses due to special management area provisions could reduce this figure to $26,200.

Land ownership adjustments could reduce annual tax revenue by about $6,000 while increasing PILT payments by $450 for counties in the economic study area.

Impacts of Alternative E

In addition to the impacts described below, refer to the general impacts section relating to each resource for environmental consequences that apply to all alternatives.

IMPACTS ON CULTURAL RESOURCES

From Wildlife Habitat. Cultural resources on approximately 3,400 acres of federal lands known to have high or moderate cultural resource sensitivity would be indirectly protected by managing **285,500** acres for priority wildlife habitat under *Alternative E* (see *Preferred Alternative* for description).

From Special Management Areas. Under *Alternative E*, cultural resources on 33 sites and areas totaling approximately 6,800 acres would generally be protected in place as described in the *Preferred Alternative.* These resources would also benefit from protection through withdrawal of the sites from surface-disturbing uses such as mining and ORV use.

Designating 15 special management areas totaling **256,660** acres under *Alternative E* would indirectly protect cultural resources on about 10,280 acres or 21% of public lands in the district with known high and moderate cultural resource sensitivity (see Table 4-2). These lands, would generally be protected by limiting allowable uses to those that are compatible or can be mitigated to preserve or enhance recognized values (see *General Impacts on Cultural Resources*). They would also benefit from protection through withdrawal of the SMAs from surface-disturbing uses such as mining and ORV use. Important cultural resources that would be protected in these areas include petroglyphs, villages, and intaglios.

From Rights-of-Way. Impacts on cultural resources from utility corridor and communication site designations under *Alternative E* would be the same as described for *Alternative C.*

From Recreation. Impacts on cultural resources from continued long-term camping in the La Posa LTVA under *Alternative E* would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

Conclusion. Under *Alternative E*, about 22,270 acres or 37% of the total known area of cultural resource sensitivity in the district would be protected either directly or indirectly by priority wildlife habitat and special management area actions.

Adverse impacts to the Mystic Maze intaglio could result from the construction of new transmission lines in the Interstate 40 corridor.

New facility development on Black Peak **and Big Maria** communication sites would conflict with the spiritual values of Native American sacred areas.

Damage to cultural resources may occur as a result of concentrating long-term campers in the La Posa LTVA. However, this damage would be offset by the positive effects of limiting this use elsewhere.

IMPACTS ON MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES

From Wildlife Habitat. The segregation of approximately **285,500** acres of public lands from mineral entry and leasing through protective withdrawals for priority wildlife habitat areas under *Alternative E* could have adverse long-term impacts on mineral and energy development. **Prospecting, exploration and staking of new mining claims is prohibited on withdrawn areas. Withdrawals are subject to valid existing rights because development of valid mining claims existing at the time of designation is**

allowed. Segregation of lands from mineral entry and leasing also makes them unavailable for detailed study and forgoes opportunities to further evaluate and possibly develop mineral potential.

From Special Management Areas. The segregation of approximately **258,180** acres of public lands from mineral entry and surface occupancy for oil and gas leases through protective withdrawals for 33 cultural resource sites and areas and 15 unique natural areas under *Alternative E* would have an adverse impact on mineral and energy development. **About 51,240 acres or 20% of the special management areas have a high potential for mineral resource development. Six special management areas totaling 72,585 acres, roughly 30%, have moderate potential for mineral resource development. The remainder, 50%, of the special management acreages have a low potential for mineral resource development. These seven areas total 132,735 acres.**

Conclusion. Under *Alternative E,* adverse impacts on mineral and energy development would result from withdrawing a total of **508,890** acres of public lands or **43%** of the planning area from mineral entry and surface occupancy for oil and gas leasing.

IMPACTS ON RANGELAND RESOURCES

Under this alternative, grazing would be eliminated entirely. Elimination of grazing would result in a rapid short-term improvement in ecological rangeland condition on those portions of the allotments that have historically received severe use. There would be a rapid improvement in vegetation vigor and reproduction in these areas.

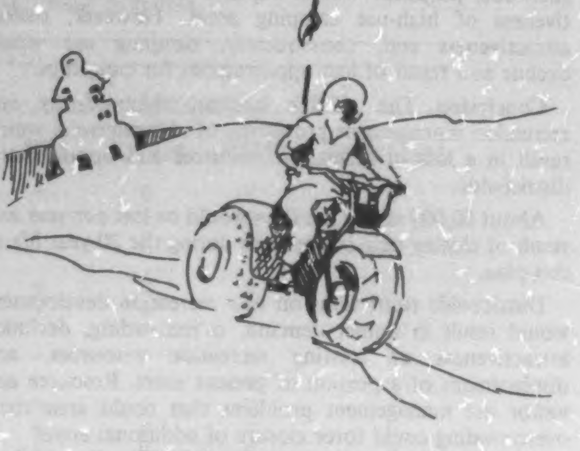
Over the long term, however, this action would generally result in a static ecological rangeland condition, with no change or even a slight decline. Stagnation, loss of vigor and lowered reproduction due to choked plants or unpruned growth would result. This would, in turn, lead to an increase in more aggressive invader species.

Conclusion. Adverse impacts on rangeland resources would result from the elimination of grazing under *Alternative E,* due to a long term decline in ecological rangeland conditions.

IMPACTS ON RECREATION RESOURCES

From Wildlife Habitat. Impacts on recreation resources from managing riparian areas as priority wildlife habitat would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

Managing 262,400 acres as priority wildlife habitat would help to maintain present opportunities for fishermen and small game recreational hunters as well as the number of big game hunting permits issued annually for lands in the district.



From Special Management Areas. Designating 15 natural areas as special management areas would help to maintain opportunities for primitive and semi-primitive non-motorized activities on approximately **256,660** acres in the district (see *General Impacts on Recreation Resources*).

From Rights-of-Way. Impacts on recreation resources from utility corridor desginations would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.*

From Recreation. Recreation concessions and leases would be phased out as contracts and leases expire under this alternative. Eight concession contracts and one lease would expire during the 20-year life of the RMP. Projections made by extending current visitor use trends indicate a loss of approximately 60,000 visitor days of riverfront recreation opportunities per year as a result of this action.

Winter visitor camping would be confined to the present LTVAs. Future growth in demand for long-term camping would therefore have to be accommodated in the existing LTVAs or go unfulfilled. Visitor use data for the period 1978–83 indicate a 6% average annual increase in long-term camping use on BLM-administered lands in the district. Assuming this trend continues, eventual overcrowding would result in a decline in the attractiveness of existing LTVAs. A portion of the present users would be displaced. However, existing data are insufficient for estimating the magnitude of this impact.

Overcrowding as a result of eliminating nine concessions and limiting long-term camping use to existing LTVAs would cause natural resource and visitor use management problems in the remaining concessions and leases as well as in the two LTVAs. Under *Alternative E,* BLM would respond to these problems by closing these areas, thereby eliminating riverfront recreation and long-term camping opportunities for the public.

All open-intensive and competitive ORV-use opportunities would be lost as a result of limiting ORV use to existing and designated roads and trails districtwide. No information on current or projected ORV use is available for estimating total losses in ORV opportunities.

Eliminating wood collection for hobby, campfire or fuelwood purposes would improve the physical attractiveness of high-use camping areas. However, overall attractiveness and, consequently, camping use would decline as a result of lost opportunities for campfires.

Conclusion. The wildlife habitat, rights-of-way and recreation management provisions of *Alternative E* would result in a loss of recreation resources and opportunities districtwide.

About 80,000 visitor use days would be lost per year as a result of closing nine concessions during the 20-year life of this plan.

Districtwide restrictions on new recreation development would result in unmet demand, overcrowding, declining attractiveness of existing recreation resources, and displacement of a portion of present users. Resource and visitor use management problems that could arise from overcrowding could force closure of additional areas.

Long-term campers in the La Posa LTVA would be displaced by any development of new transmission lines in the Parker-Blaisdell corridor.

Demand for authorized open-intensive ORV use opportunities would not be satisfied.

IMPACTS ON NATURAL AREAS AND FEATURES

From Wildlife Habitat. Under *Alternative E*, seven natural areas would benefit from priority wildlife habitat management (see *General Impacts on Natural Areas*). The Mesa (10,400 acres), Planet Peak (6,400 acres), Aubrey Hills (13,440 acres), Whipple Mountains (5,760 acres), Crossman Peak (15,500 acres) and Muggins Mountains (14,445 acres) would overlap either partially or completely with priority wildlife habitat for bighorn sheep. The Laguna-Martinez area (13,500 acres) would overlap completely with priority riparian habitat.

From Grazing. The elimination of grazing under *Alternative E* would benefit the Cactus Plain and La Posa Plain natural areas by allowing localized areas of vegetation and soil disturbance (covering approximately 34,000 acres) to return to natural conditions (see *General Impacts on Natural Areas*).

From Recreation. Prohibiting the collection of wood for fuel would benefit all natural areas by protecting riparian vegetation.

Conclusion. No adverse impacts on unique natural features or areas would result from implementation of *Alternative E*.

Beneficial impacts on unique natural features in the Cactus Plain and La Posa Plain areas would result from the elimination of perennial-ephemeral grazing.

About 73,555 acres of unique natural features in seven areas would benefit from priority wildlife habitat management.

Beneficial impacts on unique natural features in all areas would result from the prohibition of wood collection.

IMPACTS ON VEGETATION

From Wildlife Habitat. Impacts on riparian vegetation and T&E plant species from priority wildlife habitat management under *Alternative E* would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

From Special Management Areas. Under this alternative, vegetation would be protected on **256,660** acres in 15 special management areas (see *General Impacts on Vegetation*). Impacts on unique plant communities, T&E and sensitive plants from the special management area designations would generally be the same as described for *Alternative C*.

From Grazing. Eliminating livestock grazing in Yuma District would have positive effects on vegetation in portions of the perennial-ephemeral allotments. Forage species usually grazed by livestock would be allowed to complete growth and reproduction. Ecological rangeland condition in areas that are currently overused would improve as a result of increasing vigor, reproduction and seedling establishment.

Eliminating livestock grazing would provide rapid restoration on deteriorated rangelands in those portions of the allotments that have historically received severe use. While overall plant cover would not greatly change, increases over current levels would occur in the desert wash areas (Osborne and Bouse Washes) where grazing use is currently concentrated. However, in the long term, desirable livestock forage species would decline in vigor and reproduction due to choked plants or unpruned growth. Accordingly, browse species would benefit most from this alternative.

Three T&E candidate species and one Bureau sensitive species could be positively impacted to an unknown extent by the cessation of grazing in the district (see Table 4–25). Not enough is known about the relationships between livestock and the plant species in question to accurately assess the degree of impacts although it is thought to be negligible.

From Recreation. Impacts on vegeation from long-term camping in LTVAs would be the same as those described in the *Preferred Alternative*.

Prohibiting firewood and hobby wood collection on federal lands would help maintain and protect present vegetative cover districtwide. In addition, areas currently impacted by wood cutting and collection would recover in the long term.

Conclusion. Positive impacts on vegetation would result from the wildlife habitat, special management area, wilderness, grazing and wood collection provisions of *Alternative E*.

TABLE 4-25: IMPACTS ON T&E AND SENSITIVE PLANTS, ALTERNATIVE E
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Plant Species	Wildlife Habitat	SMAs	Grazing	R-O-Ws	Recreation
	Impacts				
Bursera microphylla**	+	+	0	U	0
Cereus greggii*	0	+	U	U	-
Coryphantha vivipara alversonii*	0	+	0	U	-
Euphorbia platysperma*	0	+	0	U	0
Ferocactus acanthodes acanthodes*	+	+	0	U	-
Helianthus niveus tephrodes*	0	+	0	U	0
Mentzelia nitens leptocaulis**	0	+	U	U	0
Opuntia wigginsii*	0	+	U	U	-
Palafoxia arida gigantea*	0	+	0	U	0
Polygonum fusiforme*	+	+	U	U	0
Rhus kearneyi**	+	+	0	U	0

+ = positive impact
0 = no impact
- = negative impact
U = unknown impact
* = candidate federal T&E species
** = Bureau sensitive species
Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1984.

Impacts on vegetation in LTVAs would be negative. However, impacts on the vegetation resource overall would be beneficial due to concentrating visitor impacts in relatively small areas of the district.

IMPACTS ON VISUAL RESOURCES

From Rights-of-Way. New facility construction in utility corridors designated under *Alternative E* could adversely affect up to 17,280 acres in VRM Class II areas and 84,480 acres in VRM Class III areas (see Table 4-6 and *General Impacts on Visual Resources*).

New facility construction on communication sites designated under *Alternative E* could adversely affect three sites in VRM Class II areas and three sites in VRM Class III areas (see Table 4-7 and *General Impacts on Visual Resources*).

From Recreation. Scenic quality would improve as a result of implementing *Alternative E's* concession management provisions. All of the district's recreation concessions and other leases are in Class II areas along the Colorado River. Under this alternative, BLM would phase out all concessions and leases and remove existing facilities. Natural vegetation would return and cover scars left after removal of facilities, restoring previously impacted areas to natural conditions and improving the visual resource of these lands.

Under *Alternative E* wood collection management provisions would benefit the district's visual resources by prohibiting wood collection on public lands for any purpose.

Conclusion. Adverse impacts on visual resources would result from new facility construction in utility corridors and communication sites designated under *Alternative E*.

Beneficial impacts on visual resources would result from phasing out concession leases along the Colorado River and prohibiting wood collection on public lands.

IMPACTS ON WILDERNESS

From Wildlife Habitat. Impacts on wilderness values from protective withdrawals for priorty wildlife habitat management under *Alternative E* would be similar to those described for priority wildlife habitat management under the *Preferred Alternative*.

From Special Management Areas. Wilderness values on 165,490 acres in 10 WSAs would benefit as a result of special management area designations under *Alternative E* (see Table 4-8 and *General Impacts on Wilderness*).

From Grazing. Under this alternative, no grazing would be permitted on public lands in the Yuma District. Range improvements for the benefit of livestock would not be built and naturalness would be enhanced in 12 WSAs partially or entirely within grazing allotments. This effect would be most significant in the Cactus Plain WSA.

From Land Ownership Adjustment. Land acquisitions made for **natural areas and wildlife habitat (28,200** acres surface and 6,020 subsurface) would **indirectly** benefit wilderness characteristics of naturalness, solitude and primitive recreation on areas within or adjacent to **eight** WSAs by consolidating federal ownership and preventing activities incompatible with **priority wildlife habitat and natural area** management. Table 4-26 shows areas and acreages benefitting from this action.

Acquisition of these lands for **wildlife and natural areas** would prevent the possible development and degradation of resources that would impair the wilderness qualities of the surrounding area. In addition, the acquisitions would alleviate access requirements that exist because of state ownership.

From Rights-of-Way. Utility corridors would form the boundaries for portions of nine WSAs (see Table 4-11). Impacts on wilderness characteristics of naturalness and solitude from new facility construction in these corridors would be generally the same as those described for *Alternative D*.

From Recreation. ORV use on all 22 WSAs would be limited to designated roads and trails under *Alternative E*. This action would prevent or slow down the creation of new vehicle ways and thus reduce soil disturbance and erosion, vegetation damage, wildlife habitat changes and archaeologic site disturbance that impact the wilderness qualities of naturalness and solitude.

Conclusion. Adverse impacts on nine WSAs would result from constructing new facilities in designated utility corridors that border WSAs.

Beneficial impacts on wilderness values would result from priority wildlife habitat management and special management area designations. Priority wildlife habitat management would affect about 110,293 acres in 11 WSAs. Special management area designations would affect about 165,490 acres in 10 WSAs.

Beneficial impacts on 12 WSAs located partially or entirely within grazing allotments would result from the elimination of grazing. Benefits would be greatest for the Cactus Plain WSA.

Beneficial impacts on wilderness values would result from the acquisition of **28,200** acres of land and 6,020 acres of mineral estate in **eight** WSAs.

Beneficial impacts on wilderness values would result from limiting ORV use to designated roads and trails.

IMPACTS ON WILDLIFE

From Wildlife Habitat. Priority management of aquatic and riparian habitat under *Alternative E* would provide long-term benefits for wildlife on **23,100** acres or approximately 2% of the district (see *General Impacts on Wildlife*).

TABLE 4-26: LAND ACQUISITIONS BENEFITTING WILDERNESS VALUES, ALTERNATIVE E
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

WSA	Acquisition	
	Acres	Purpose
Crossman Peak	**12,480***	**Wildlife**
Mohave Wash	**8,960***	**Wildlife**
Gibraltar Mountain	6,020**	Natural Area
Cactus Plain	2,720	Natural Area
Swansea	**640**	**Natural Area**
East Cactus Plain	960	Natural Area
South Trigo Mountains	1,230	Wildlife
Trigo Mountains	1,210	Wildlife
Total	34,220	

*Includes requisition of land possessing wilderness values outside of present WSA.
**Acquisition of mineral estate only.
Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1984.

Priority management of riparian habitat under *Alternative E* would also sustain the population of the Yuma clapper rail (see *General Impacts on Wildlife*).

Priority management of terrestrial wildlife habitat under *Alternative E* would provide long-term benefits for wildlife in the Yuma District by protecting habitat conditions on certain key areas. Managing bighorn sheep yearlong use areas (in the Bill Williams, Buckskin, Mohave, Whipple, Black, Trigo and Dome Rock Mountains and the Aubrey Hills), and occasional use areas (in the Chocolate, Gila and Laguna Mountains) as priority wildlife habitat would benefit bighorn sheep on 254,720 acres or 21% of the district. Management of the Castle Dome Migration Route (7,680 acres) as priority wildlife habitat would benefit bighorn sheep and mule deer by continuing to allow normal movement patterns between the Chocolate and Castle Dome Mountains. Seasonal closure of roads during the bighorn lambing period (January to June) would significantly benefit sheep reproduction on 11,100 acres.

From Special Management Areas. Designating 15 unique natural areas as special management areas under *Alternative E* would indirectly benefit wildlife on **256,660** acres or **21%** of the district (see *General Impacts on Wildlife*).

From Grazing. Elimination of grazing on the district under *Alternative E* would generally have positive impacts for wildlife on all grazing allotments. It would allow areas adjacent to waters and fences where vegetation has been trampled or disturbed to return to natural conditions. It would also alleviate wildlife competition for forage on areas of past livestock use.

Construction of 200-300 miles of fence on the district under this alternative could negatively impact bighorn sheep and mule deer movements. However, the extent of this impact is unknown.

From Land Ownership Adjustment. Acquisitions totaling 25,640 acres under *Alternative E* would benefit wildlife because the lands involved would be managed with priority emphasis on wildlife habitat and would consolidate habitat, thus halting encroachment from other uses. These acquisitions would involve important bighorn sheep, mule deer and riparian habitat.

Termination of agricultural leases and permits on 4,205 acres under *Alternative E* would benefit wildlife, since this riverine area would be revegetated with native plant species and maintained for wildlife values. Those values include providing wildlife access to the river and furnishing forage, cover and breeding habitat.

From Rights-of-Way. Impacts on wildlife from designating utility corridors and communication sites under *Alternative E* would be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative*.

From Recreation. Closing some existing recreation areas and phasing out concessions and leases under *Alternative E* would benefit wildlife. These areas would be returned to natural conditions and revegetated with native vegetation. Wildlife values such as cover and forage would improve as a result. On the other hand, closing existing intensive use areas could also adversely impact wildlife if recreationists move onto currently undisturbed areas. Wildlife on these areas would be impacted to an unknown extent through the resulting loss of habitat by harassment, vegetation destruction and soil erosion.

Impacts from *Alternative E's* provisions for wood collection would generally be the same as those described for the *Preferred Alternative.* In addition, prohibiting collection of wood for campfires and hobby purposes on areas of high recreation use would further benefit wildlife. The collection of dead and down wood for campfires has denuded portions of these areas, resulting in the loss of cover for numerous ground dwelling species such as rodents and reptiles.

Conclusion. Adverse impacts on wildlife would result from constructing new utilities in the Parker-Liberty and Parker-Blaisdell corridors.

Beneficial impacts on a total of 508,890 acres of wildlife habitat would result from priority management of riparian and terrestrial habitat, special management area designations. Wildlife would also benefit from: a) the revegetation of terminated agricultural leases and permits and their maintenance for wildlife values, b) closing some existing recreation areas, c) phasing out concessions and leases, d) acquiring 25,640 acres of wildlife habitat and e) prohibiting wood collection.

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

From Grazing. *Alternative E* would eliminate grazing on public lands in Yuma District altogether. Ranchers would lose $35,380 in annual revenue both in the short and long term. While the adverse economic impact of this action would be substantial for the ranchers involved, the overall loss in the local and regional economies would be negligible.

From Land Ownership Adjustments. The economic impacts of land ownership adjustments are summarized in Table 4-13.

Land acquisitions and disposals under *Alternative E* would result in acquisition or transfer of 29,960 acres into federal ownership. Approximately 20,850 of the acres to be acquired would be private lands. Acquisition of private lands by the federal government would decrease county tax bases. On the basis of an estimated value of $150 per acre for acquired private lands, tax revenues of counties in the study area would be reduced by about $54,900. At the same time, payments in-lieu of taxes (PILT) on public lands would increase by about $4,170.

The cancellation of agricultural leases and permits would reduce total taxable crop production in the study area and therefore reduce tax revenues of counties by about $79,870.

The total decrease in annual revenue for counties would be $130,600.

From Recreation. Phasing out the recreation concessions and leases would cause a decline in retail and services sector expenditures in the study area of 1.3%. The impact on local economies would be slightly greater with a decline of approximately 2.1% in total retail and service sector sales. In addition, approximately $125,000 in receipts would be lost for the local Parker and study area economies as a result of eliminating the Parker 400 race course. Accordingly, a total of approximately 2.6% in retail and services sector revenues would be lost for the local economies.

Conclusion. The grazing, land ownership adjustment and recreation management provisions of *Alternative E* would have negative economic impacts on individual operators and local economies in the study area. Annual revenue for ranchers on public lands in Yuma District would decline by 100% or $35,380. Land ownership adjustments and elimination of agricultural use on public lands would result in losses of annual revenue for counties of about $130,600. Local retail and service industry receipts would decline by about 2.6% as a result of the recreation management provisions in *Alternative E.*

Mitigating Measures

This section includes measures developed by BLM to mitigate the adverse environmental impacts that would result under each of the plan alternatives. In accordance with environmental laws and regulations, these measures would be real, committed and enforceable.

GENERAL IMPACTS

Physical Features

Adverse impacts on soils from the construction of new transmission and communication facilities in designated utility corridors and communication sites would be mitigated on a case-by-case basis by applying design requirements that have been developed for similar facilities.

Vegetation

Impacts on vegetation from the construction of new facilities in designated utility corridors and communication sites would be mitigated by vegetative rehabilitation and road closures to assure minimal surface damage and reduce chances for erosion to occur.

Visual Resources

Impacts on visual resources from the construction of new facilities in designated utility corridors and communication sites would be mitigated on a case-by-case basis by applying design requirements that have been developed for similar facilities.

Wildlife

Impacts on wildlife from increased vehicle access due to the construction of new facilities in designated utility corridors and communication sites would generally be mitigated by closing service roads for these facilities to general public use.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Cultural Resources

1. Damage to intaglios in the Ganado allotment from livestock trampling would be reduced by strengthening and maintaining existing protective fences around the intaglios.
2. Impacts on cultural resources from the disposal of Areas 5 and 7 from Federal ownership would be avoided by conducting a full data recovery program on these areas. This program would include inventory, resource evaluation, and a Section 106 review under *NHPA* requirements prior to disposal of the areas.
3. **Impacts to the Mystic Maze intaglio and another important cultural resource site from construction within the Interstate 40 and UC-6a utility corridors would be avoided by routing new facilities within the corridors so as to avoid these resources.**
4. **Impacts to Native American sacred areas from designating Black Peak as a communication site would be mitigated over the long term by phasing out this site when suitable alternate sites are identified.**
5. Impacts on cultural resources from spectator traffic and activity asociated with competitive ORV events on the Parker 400 course would be avoided with adequate spectator control.

Rangeland Resources

Impacts on rangeland resources from the congregation of spectators and vehicles along Osborne Wash during competitive events held on the Parker 400 course would be mitigated with adequate spectator control.

Recreation Resources

Losses in long-term camping opportunities in the La Posa LTVA from the construction of new facilities in the Parker-Blaisdell corridor would be mitigated by expanding the LTVA onto adjacent public lands.

Wildlife

Impacts to bighorn sheep from new utilities in the Parker-Liberty corridor would be mitigated by restricting the corridor to a 330-foot width where it passes through bighorn sheep range and lambing grounds, and closing service roads to general public use.

ALTERNATIVE A

Cultural Resources

1. Damage to intaglios in the Ganado allotment from livestock trampling would be reduced by strengthening and maintaining existing protective fences around the intaglios.
2. Impacts on cultural resources from the disposal of Areas 5 and 7 from federal ownership would be avoided by conducting a full data recovery program on these areas. This program would include inventory, resource evaluation, and a Section 106 review under *NHPA* requirements prior to disposal of the areas.
3. Impacts on cultural resources from spectator traffic and activity associated with competitive ORV events on the Parker 400 course would be avoided with adequate spectator control.

Rangeland Resources

Impacts on rangeland resources from the congregation of spectators and vehicles along Osborne Wash during competitive events held on the Parker 400 race course would be mitigated with adequate spectator control.

Recreation Resources

Losses in long-term camping opportunities in the La Posa LTVA from the construction of new transmission lines in the Parker-Blaisdell corridor would be mitigated by expanding the LTVA onto adjacent public lands.

ALTERNATIVE B

Cultural Resources

1. Damage to intaglios in the Ganado allotment from livestock trampling would be reduced by strengthening and maintaining existing protective fences around the intaglios.
2. Impacts on cultural resources from the disposal of Areas 5 and 7 from federal ownership would be avoided by conducting a full data recovery program on these areas. This program would include inventory, resource evaluation, and Section 106 review under *NHPA* requirements prior to disposal of the areas.
3. Impacts on cultural resources from spectator activity associated with competitive ORV events on the Parker 400 race course would be mitigated with adequate spectator control.

Rangeland Resources

Impacts on rangeland resources from the congregation of spectators and vehicles along Osborne Wash during competitive events held on the Parker 400 race course would be mitigated with adequate spectator control.

ALTERNATIVE C

Cultural Resources

1. Damage to intaglios in the Ganado allotment from livestock trampling would be reduced by strengthening and maintaining existing protective fences around the intaglios.
2. Impacts on cultural resources from the disposal of Areas 5 and 7 from federal ownership would be avoided by conducting a full data recovery program on these areas. This program would include inventory, resource evaluation, and Section 106 review under *NHPA* requirements prior to disposal of the areas.
3. Impacts to the Mystic Maze intaglio from new facility construction in the proposed Interstate 40 corridor would be avoided by routing transmission lines within the corridor so as to avoid this resource.
4. Impacts on cultural resources from spectator activity associated with the annual competitive ORV event on the Parker 400 course would be avoided with adequate spectator control.

Rangeland Resources

Impacts on rangeland resources from the congregation of spectators and vehicles along Osborne Wash during the annual competitive event held on the Parker 400 course would be mitigated by adequate spectator control.

Recreation Resources

Losses in long-term camping opportunities in the La Posa LTVA from the construction of new transmission line facilities in the Parker-Blaisdell corridor would be mitigated by expanding the LTVA onto adjacent public lands.

Wildlife

1. Impacts to bighorn sheep from new utilities in the Parker-Liberty corridor would be mitigated by restricting their construction to a 330-foot width where the corridor passes through bighorn sheep

range and lambing grounds, and by the closure of service roads to the general public.

2. Impacts to wildlife from new utilities in the Parker-Davis "B" corridor would be mitigated by closing service roads to general public use.

ALTERNATIVE D

Cultural Resources

1. Damage to intaglios in the Ganado allotment from livestock trampling would be reduced by strengthening and maintaining existing protective fences around the intaglios.
2. Impacts on cultural resources from the disposal of Areas 5 and 7 would be avoided by conducting a full data recovery program on these areas. This program would include inventory, resource evaluation, and Section 106 review under *NHPA* requirements prior to disposal of the areas.
3. Impacts to the Mystic Maze intaglio from new facility construction in the proposed Interstate 40 corridor would be avoided by routing transmission lines within the corridor so as to avoid this resource.
4. Impacts on cultural resources from spectator activity associated with the annual competitive event on the Parker 400 course would be avoided with adequate spectator control.

Rangeland Resources

Adverse impacts on rangeland resources from the congregation of spectators and vehicles along Osborne Wash during the annual competitive event held on the Parker 400 course would be mitigated with adequate spectator control.

Recreation Resources

Losses in long-term camping opportunities in the La Posa LTVA from the construction of new transmission lines in the Parker-Blaisdell corridor would be mitigated by expanding the LTVA onto adjacent public lands.

Wildlife

Impacts to bighorn sheep from new utilities in the Parker-Liberty corridor would be mitigated by restricting their construction to a 330-foot width where the corridor passes through bighorn sheep range and lambing grounds, and by the closure of service roads to the general public.

ALTERNATIVE E

Cultural Resources

Adverse impacts to the Mystic Maze intaglio would be avoided by routing new transmission lines in the Interstate 40 corridor so as to avoid this resource.

Recreation Resources

Losses in long-term camping opportunities in the La Posa LTVA from the construction of new transmission lines in the Parker-Blaisdell corridor would be mitigated by expanding the LTVA onto adjacent public lands.

Wildlife

Impacts to bighorn sheep from new utilities in the Parker-Liberty corridor would be mitigated by restricting their construction to a 330-foot width where the corridor passes through bighorn sheep range and lambing grounds, and by the closure of service roads to the general public.

Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

This section summarizes the adverse impacts that would remain if the *Preferred Alternative* is implemented and the mitigating measures developed by BLM are applied.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Construction of new facilities on the Big Maria communication site would conflict with the spiritual value of this Native American sacred area.

RANGELAND RESOURCES

Managing the Cactus Plain to protect its natural values would adversely impact rangeland production by prohibiting future increases in livestock numbers, and by restricting range improvements.

Disposal of 11,230 acres in Areas 11 and 12 would adversely impact rangeland production by precluding the utilization of these lands for intensive grazing management.

RECREATION RESOURCES

Managing riparian areas as priority wildlife habitat would preclude opportunities for recreation development along the Colorado River.

Disposal of Area 10 could adversely impact opportunities for developed, water-based recreational use along the Colorado River.

ORV use designations would eliminate open-intensive ORV use opportunities on 96% of the public lands that are presently used for this purpose.

NATURAL AREAS AND FEATURES

Perennial-ephemeral grazing and new range improvements would result in adverse impacts on unique natural features in the **Cactus Plain and** La Posa Plain **areas.**

Disposal of 3,325 acres in Area 11 could adversely impact unique natural features on a small portion of the Cactus Plain area.

New transmission lines in a 10-mile segment of the Parker-Blaisdell utility corridor would adversely impact unique natural features at the western end of the Cactus Plain area.

VEGETATION

Livestock grazing would negatively affect unique vegeation communities on stabilized sand dunes in the La Posa Plain.

Disposal of Area 11 could result in the loss of 3,325 cres of a unique vegetation community on stabilized sand dunes in the Cactus Plain.

New facility construction in a 10-mile segment of the Parker-Blaisdell utility corridor would adversely impact part of a unique vegetation community on stabilized sand dunes at the western end of the Cactus Plain.

Continued use of LTVAs would negatively impact egetation in these areas.

Increases in spectators for race events on the Parker 400 ourse would negatively impact vegetation on approximately 12,800 acres along Osborne Wash.

WILDERNESS

Disposal of 3,325 acres in Area 11 could result in the loss f naturalness, solitude and primitive recreation on a poron of the Cactus Plain WSA.

New transmission lines in the Parker-Blaisdell utility orridor would adversely impact naturalness and solitude n the western end of the Cactus Plain WSA. New facilies in other utility corridors would adversely impact aturalness and solitude on overlapped portions of **nine** ther WSAs.

WILDLIFE

Disposal of **5,745** acres in Areas 3, **10 and 11** could result in the loss of wildlife habitat on these areas if the acquiring entities' objectives do not include management for wildlife values.

The proliferation of new facilities in the Parker-Blaisdell corridor would disrupt the migration of bighorn sheep and deer between the Chocolate and Castle Dome Mountains.

New facilities in a 10-mile segment of the Parker-Blaisdell corridor would adversely impact wildlife habitat on stabilized sand dunes at the western end of the Cactus Plain.

Competitive events on the Parker 400 course would continue to cause some wildlife habitat degradation due to vegetation destruction, soil erosion and wildlife harassment.

Short-Term Use Versus Long-Term Productivity

This section identifies the trade-offs between short-term use and long-term productivity of the resources involved in the *Preferred Alternative*. For purposes of analysis, short-term refers to the period involved for implementing the plan (within approximately five years). Long-term generally refers to the 20-year life of the plan.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources on about 30% of the district's areas of known high and moderate cultural resources sensitivity would benefit in both the short- and long-term from priority wildlife habitat management and protective management of cultural resource sites and unique natural areas.

Native American religious values could be disturbed in both the short term and long term as a result of new facility construction on the Black Peak **and Big Maria** communications sites.

Some cultural resource sites would be subjected to short-term disturbance or removal as a result of concentrating camping use in LTVAs. In the long term, however, cultural resources on areas outside of the LTVAs would be protected by this action.

RANGELAND RESOURCES

Rangeland resources would generally benefit in the long term from increased grazing capacity, improved forage species, improved ecological rangeland condition, and the acquisition of non-federal lands in "I" allotments.

Increases in livestock numbers and rangeland developments on the Cactus Plain would be precluded in the long term by management of the area to protect its natural values **and by land disposals.**

RECREATION RESOURCES

Opportunities for riverfront recreation in presently undeveloped areas would be precluded in the long term by priority wildlife habitat management of riparian areas.

Opportunities for riverfront recreation could be precluded in the long term by the transfer of Disposal Area 10 to Arizona.

Opportunities for riverfront recreation along the Parker Strip would be disrupted in the short term by the removal of RV and campsites to areas away from the river. In the long term, however, these opportunities would increase as a result of providing access to river frontage for greater numbers of recreationists and allowing concessions and leases to expand onto adjacent BLM-administered lands.

Opportunities for open-intensive ORV use would be mostly eliminated in the short term by implementation of the ORV use designations. However, elimination of these opportunities would benefit other recreation use opportunities in adjacent high-use camping areas.

UNIQUE NATURAL AREAS

Natural features in the La Posa Plain would be disturbed in the long term by increased perennial-ephemeral grazing and new rangeland improvements.

Unique natural features would be protected in both the short term and long term by priority wildlife habitat management, protective management of natural areas and the prohibition of wood collection in riparian areas.

VEGETATION

Vegetation would generally be protected in the short term and long term by priority wildlife habitat management and protective management of unique natural areas.

Plant species composition, frequency and cover in native vegetation communities on the La Posa Plain could change in the long term as a result of increased grazing use.

VISUAL RESOURCES

Visual resources would generally be protected in the short term and long term by priority management of wildlife habitat and protective management of unique natural areas.

WILDLIFE

Wildlife would generally benefit in the short term and long term by priority wildlife habitat management, the protective management of unique natural areas and restrictions on wood collection.

Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

This section identifies the extent to which the *Preferred Alternative* would irreversibly limit potential uses of the land and resources. For purposes of analysis, an irreversible commitment of resources has been interpreted to mean that those resources committed by implementation of the *Preferred Alternative* would continue to be committed throughout the 20-year life of the plan. An irretrievable commitment of resources has been interpreted to mean that those resources used, consumed, destroyed or degraded during implementation of the *Preferred Alternative* could not be retrieved or replaced for the life of the plan or beyond.

Irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources for the *Preferred Alternative* are summarized in Table 4-27.

Consistency With Other Plans

The BLM planning regulations require that RMPs be "consistent with officially approved or adopted resource-related plans of other federal agencies, state and local

Table 4-27: IRREVERSIBLE AND IRRETRIEVABLE COMMITMENTS OF RESOURCES,
PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Resource	Type of Commitment	Reason for Commitment	Irreversible	Irretrievable
Cultural	Disturbance of Native American sacred area.	Designating the Big Maria communication site.	Yes	No
	Disturbance or removal of sites.	Accommodating winter visitors in the La Posa LTVA.	Yes	Yes
Rangeland	Restricting future increases in livestock numbers and rangeland developments.	Managing the Cactus Plain to protect its natural values.	Yes	No
		Disposal of lands within "I" allotments.	Yes	No
Recreation	Restricting new recreation development on riverfront.	Priority wildlife habitat management of riparian areas.	Yes	No
	Restricting opportunities for riverfront recreation.	Disposal of Pittsburg Point.	Yes	No
Unique Natural Areas	Disturbance of natural features in the La Posa Plain.	Allowing increased perennial-ephemeral grazing and new range improvements.	Yes	Yes
	Disturbance of natural features in the Cactus Plain.	Disposal of Area 11.	Yes	No
		Designating the Parker-Blaisdell utility corridor.	Yes	No
Vegetation	Disturbance of native plant community on the La Posa Plain.	Allowing increased perennial-ephemeral grazing.	Yes	Yes
	Loss of 3,225 acres of native plant community on Cactus Plain.	Disposal of Area 11.	Yes	No
	Disturbance of native plant community on Cactus Plain.	Designating the Parker-Blaisdell utility corridor.	Yes	No
Wilderness	Loss of wilderness characteristics on 3,325 acres in the Cactus Plain WSA.	Disposal of Area 11.	Yes	No
	Disturbance of naturalness and solitude in the Cactus Plain WSA.	Designating the Parker-Blaisdell utility corridor.	Yes	No
	Disturbance of naturalness and solitude in nine WSAs.	Designating utility corridors.	Yes	No
Wildlife	Loss of valuable wildlife habitat on 5,745 acres.	Disposal of Areas 3, 10 and 11.	Yes	No
	Disruption of bighorn sheep and deer migration.	Designating the Parker-Blaisdell utility corridor.	Yes	No
	Disturbance of valuable wildlife habitat.	Designating the Parker-Blaisdell utility corridor.	Yes	No

Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1984.

governments, and Indian tribes, so long as the guidance and resource management plans are also consistent with the purposes, policies, and programs of federal laws and regulations applicable to public land..."

Throughout preparation of the RMP-EIS, several measures were taken to ensure that consistency requirements were met.

During preparation of the draft, letters and response forms were sent to other governmental agencies and Indian tribes requesting information on land use plans or policies that would affect or be affected by the RMP. Community and county governments were contacted to determine whether public lands would be needed for community expansion purposes within the life of the RMP. Letters were also sent to affected utility companies requesting information on the proposed locations of new utility rights-of-way.

Briefing meetings were held during preparation of the draft and final RMP-EIS with three Indian tribes, state and federal legislative officers in Arizona and California, the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, numerous state governmental agencies in Arizona, the California Department of Fish and Game and numerous other groups to discuss BLM's *Preferred Alternative*, local plans and needs for further coordination. In addition, letters were sent to numerous other agencies and interest groups offering to meet to discuss consistency issues.

These contacts facilitated closer coordination between BLM and affected agencies and were instrumental in the formulation of plan alternatives, including the *Preferred Alternative*.

All of these agencies, businesses and organizations received copies of the draft and will receive copies of the final RMP-EIS. In Addition, the Governors of Arizona and California have been asked to review the final RMP over a 60-day period for consistency with state and local plans before it is approved.

CHAPTER 5

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Consultation and coordination has been an important part of this planning effort since 1981 when the start of the Havasu Resource Management Plan was announced. Public meetings, informational mailings and individual contacts with other governmental agencies, Indian tribes, nterested groups and the general public have been used to ensure that the views and needs of public land users and concerned agencies are considered in the RMP.

Public Involvement

Yuma District has undertaken an active public participation program. Informing and involving the public included notices in the *Federal Register* and news releases sent to local radio stations and newspapers. These releases ranged in subject matter from general announcements at the beginning of the planning process to dates and places of specific public meetings and requests for public comments. Public participation activities are listed chronologically in Table 5-1 and include those efforts completed for the Havasu Resource Area RMP which began in October 1981. The decision to prepare an RMP-EIS for the entire Yuma District was published in the *Federal Register* on May 4, 1983. Complete records of public comments and involvement are on file in the Yuma District Office.

Consultation and coordination with agencies, organizations and individuals were useful in several ways. Contacts with the public and other agencies helped to identify the planning issues (see Public Scoping in Chapter 1). Aspects of public land management that received little comment or were subject to administrative or legal constraints were eliminated as potential planning issues, thus streamlining the process. The planning team consulted with federal, state and local agencies during the data gathering phase of the RMP-EIS to obtain information needed for development of the alternatives. BLM coordinated and consulted with other agencies once tentative alternatives were completed to identify conflicting management objectives and potential impacts to adjacent land-managing agencies.

BLM invited public comment on the draft RMP-EIS through a *Federal Register* notice of availability, press releases, and direct mailing of the draft RMP-EIS to approximately 750 people and agencies. Four formal public hearings provided opportunities for additional public comment. The public comment period began January 18, 1985, and ended on April 19, 1985.

A total of 370 letters and 67 public hearing presentations were received during the 90-day comment period. Public comments and BLM's responses to these are presented in Chapter 6.

Distribution List

BLM requested comments from interested groups and individuals; from federal, state and local agencies, and Indian tribes; and from all affected grazing allottees, concessionaires, and agricultural lessees and permittees. The following is a list of organizations and agencies that received the **draft and will be mailed the final EIS**. Agencies, organizations and businesses with whom BLM consulted or from whom BLM received input during the preparation of the RMP-EIS are identified with asterisks.

Federal Agencies

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Council on Environmental Quality
Department of Agriculture
  Forest Service
  *Soil Conservation Service
Department of Defense
  *Army Corps of Engineers
  *U.S. Air Force
  *Marine Corps Air Station, Yuma
  *Yuma Proving Ground, Army
Department of Energy
  Federal Energy Regulation Commission
  *Western Area Power Administration
Department of Immigration and Naturalization
  *Immigration Border Patrol
Department of the Interior
  Bureau of Indian Affairs
  Bureau of Mines
  *Bureau of Reclamation
  *Fish and Wildlife Service
  Geological Survey
  *National Park Service
Department of Transportation
  Federal Aviation Administration
  Federal Highway Administration
*Environmental Protection Agency
Federal Communications Commission
*International Boundary and Water Commission
*U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

Table 5-1: PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Date	Action
1978-1980	Initial and intensive wilderness inventories were conducted to determine which lands would comprise WSAs in the State of Arizona
	Intensive public meetings and mailouts occurred during this period
November 1981	Letters to Governors of California and Arizona announcing the start of the Havasu RMP, intent to coordinate with states
	News Release announcing the start of the Havasu RMP, inviting public input
	1600 prepaid return mail postcards sent out with planning information packet asking if individuals or groups wish to be involved in planning process
December 1981	Notice of Intent to Prepare an RMP-EIS for the Havasu Resource Area appeared in the *Federal Register*
January 1982	Planning information packet mailed to announce public meetings, explaining the need for the meetings and requesting comments on issues
	News releases and public service announcements publicized forthcoming meetings
	Three public meetings in Lake Havasu City, Parker, and Bullhead City, AZ, to identify issues
February 1982	Summary of public comments on planning issues mailed
April 1982	Postcards to update public mailing lists sent out
April 1983	Revised planning area and began district-wide RMP-EIS
	Planning information packet mailed announcing public meetings in the Yuma Resource Area; inviting participation in issue identification
May1983	Notice of Intent to Prepare an RMP-EIS for Yuma District published in the *Federal Register*
	Two public meetings held in Yuma, AZ, and Blythe, CA to identify issues
June 1983	Form sent out to 63 agencies, Indian Tribes, and irrigation districts, requesting information on plans, policies, and programs that might be affected by the RMP
	Letter sent to 54 agencies and utility and communications corporations for information on needed or proposed transmission lines, corridors and communication sites
July 1983	Briefing with Advisory Council on issues and criteria
	Letters and forms for identifying community expansion needs sent to 20 city and county offices in the district
	Summary of public comments on Yuma District planning issues mailed
August 1983	RMP issues and draft planning criteria mailed to approximately 575 groups, agencies and individuals
December 1983	Five draft RMP alternatives mailed to approximately 575 agencies, groups and individuals
December 1983	News release announcing forthcoming public meetings on draft alternatives
	Two open-house meetings in Lake Havasu City and Yuma, Arizona, to present draft RMP alternatives
January 1984	Briefing meetings with Advisory Council, state and federal agencies, and elected officials on plan alternatives
January 1985	Notice of Availability of the draft RMP-EIS for Yuma District published in the *Federal Register*
February 1985	News release and public service announcements publicizing forthcoming public hearings on draft RMP-EIS
February 1985	Four public hearings held in Lake Havasu City, Yuma and Phoenix, Arizona, and Blythe, California to receive comment on the draft RMP-EIS
March 1985	Management briefing with city, county, state and federal agencies, elected officials, Indian tribes and BLM Advisory Council on draft RMP-EIS

DISTRIBUTION LIST

Congressional Offices

*Office of Representative George Brown
*Office of Representative Duncan Hunter
*Office of Representative Jerry Lewis
*Office of Representative John McCain
*Office of Representative Al McCandless
*Office of Representative James McNulty
*Office of Representative Bob Stump
*Office of Representative Morris K. Udall
Office of Senator Alan Cranston
*Office of Senator Dennis DeConcini
*Office of Senator Barry Goldwater

Arizona State Agencies

*Arizona Bureau of Geology and Mineral Technology
*Arizona Commission of Agriculture and Horticulture
*Arizona Department of Health Services
*Arizona Department of Mineral Resources
*Arizona Department of Transportation
*Arizona Department of Water Resources
*Arizona Game and Fish Department
*Arizona Natural Heritage Program
*Arizona Office of Economic Planning and Development
*Arizona Outdoor Recreation Coordinating Commission
*Arizona State Clearinghouse
*Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer
*Arizona State Land Commissioner
*Arizona State Museum
*Arizona State Parks Board
*Arizona State University
*Governor Bruce Babbitt
Governor's Commission on Arizona Environment
Museum of Northern Arizona
Northern Arizona University
*University of Arizona

California State Agencies

California Conservation Corps
*Colorado River Board of California
*Department of Boating and Waterways
*Department of Conservation
*Department of Fish and Game
*Department of Parks and Recreation
*Department of Transportation
*Department of Water Resources
*Governor George Deukmejian
*Native American Heritage Commission
*Office of Historic Preservation
*Office of Planning and Research
*State Clearinghouse
*State Lands Commission
*The Resources Agency of California
University of California at Berkeley
University of California at Riverside
University of California at Santa Barbara

State Legislators

*Arizona State Representative Don Aldridge
*Arizona State Representative Frank McElhaney
*Arizona State Representative Robert McLendon
*Arizona State Senator John Hays
*Arizona State Senator Jones Osborn
California Assemblyman Steve Clute
California Assemblyman James Cramer
California Assemblyman Bill Leonard

County Agencies

Arizona Association of Counties
*District IV Council of Governments
*Imperial County
*La Paz County Board of Supervisors
*La Paz County Manager
*Maricopa County Planning and Development
*Mohave County Board of Supervisors
*Mohave County Engineer
*Mohave County Parks
*Mohave County Planning and Zoning
*Palo Verde Regional Council
*Riverside County
*San Bernardino County Planning Department
Southern California Association of Governments
*Yuma County Administrator
*Yuma County Board of Supervisors
*Yuma County Chamber of Commerce
Yuma County Highway Department
*Yuma County Planning Department

City Governments*

Blythe, California
El Centro, California
Needles, California
Bullhead City, Arizona
Lake Havasu City, Arizona
Parker, Arizona
Yuma, Arizona

Indian Tribes and Councils*

Chemehuevi Tribal Council
Colorado River Indian Tribes
Cocopah Tribal Council
Fort Mohave Tribal Council
Quechan Tribal Council
Yavapai-Prescott Board of Directors

Businesses*

Arizona Public Service
Atlantic Richfield Co.
Chevron USA Inc.
Citizens Utilities Co.
Gold Fields Mining Corp.
GSA Resources, Inc.
Lakin Enterprises
MCI Telecommunications Corporation
Mountain Bell
Occidental Minerals Corp.
Pacific Gas and Electric Co.
San Diego Gas and Electric Co.
Santa Fe Mining, Inc.
Santa Fe Pacific Railroad Co.
Southern California Edison Co.
Southern California Gas Co.
Southern Pacific Pipeline Co.
U.S. Borax

Organizations

Arizona Cattle Growers Association
*Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Inc.
Arizona Friends of the Earth
Arizona Humane Society
*Arizona Mining Association
*Arizona Prospectors and Small Mine Operators Association
*Arizona RV and Campers Parks Association
*Arizona Wildlife Federation
*Arizona Wilderness Coalition
*Arizona 4-Wheel Drive Association
*Audubon Society
California Association of 4-Wheel Drive Clubs
*Central Arizona Water Conservation District
*Colorado River Development Association
*Conservation Call
Common Cause
*Defenders of Wildlife
Desert Bighorn Council
Desert Fishes Council
*Desert Protective Council
*Desert Tortoise Council
Earth First!
High Desert Cattlemen's Association
Izaak Walton League of America
League of Women Voters
*Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
*Mohave Sportsmen Club
*National 4-Wheel Drive Association
National Mustang Association
*National Parks and Conservation Association
National Rifle Association
Natural Resources Defense Council
*Palo Verde Irrigation District
*Palo Verde Rod and Gun Club, California
River Front Property Owners Association
Riviera Property Owners Association
*SCORE International
*Sierra Club
Southern Arizona Environmental Council
Southern California Council of Conservation Clubs
*The Nature Conservancy
The Wilderness Society
*United Four Wheel Drive Associations
*Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation District
*Wildlife Management Institute
*Wildlife Society
*Yuma County Water Users Association

List of Preparers

The Yuma District RMP-EIS was prepared by an interdisciplinary team of resource specialists. Table 5-2 lists the names, role and qualifications of each team member. The Arizona State Office support team appears in Table 5-3.

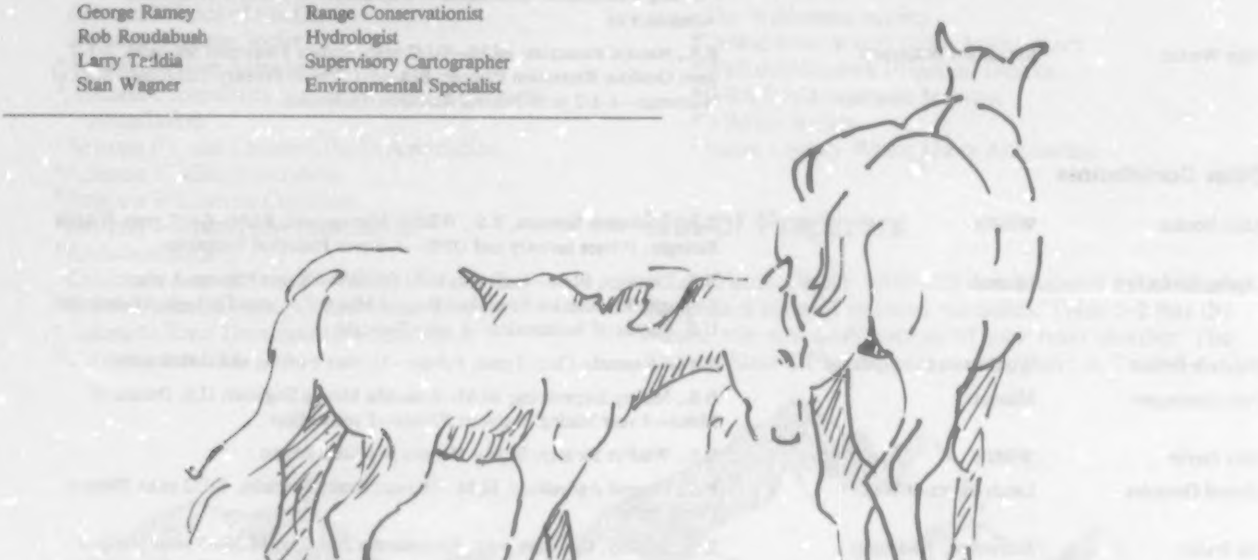
Table 5-2: RMP-EIS TEAM
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Name	Contribution	Qualifications
Core Team		
Hector Abrego (Phoenix District)	Grazing Vegetation	B.S., Range Management; BLM—8 years Range Conservationist
J.J. Atkins	Floodplains, Environmental Analysis	B.S., Botany; M.S., Wildland Recreation Mgt.; BLM —4 years Environmental Specialist, 2-1/2 years Wilderness Specialist, 1-1/2 years Outdoor Recreation Planner
Mike Baron	Wilderness	B.A., Graduate work, Geography; BLM—5-1/2 years Outdoor Recreation Planner; NPS—2-1/2 years Park Technician
Larry Koontz	Lands, Mapping	B.S., Forestry; BLM—6 years Realty Specialist, 3 years Range Conservationist; USFS —1 year Wildlife and Range Technician
Linda Micale	Writer/Editor	B.A., Latin American Policy, Graduate work, Natural Resources; BLM—1 year Assistant Land Use Planner; State of Arizona—2-1/2 years Administrative Assistant
John R. Morgart	Wildlife Habitat Special Management Areas	B.S., Wildlife Biology; M.S., Zoology; BLM—5 years Wildlife Biologist, 1-1/2 years Range Conservationist; State of Arizona—4 years Research Biologist
Dennis Turowski	Team Leader	B.S., Environmental Design; M.S. Parks and Recreation Resources; BLM—4 years Planning Coordinator; Smithsonian/Peace Corps—3 years National Parks Administrator
Mike Werner	Recreation Wilderness	B.S., Natural Resources; BLM—1-1/2 years Surface Protection Specialist, 2-1/2 years Outdoor Recreation Planner; BIA—1-1/2 years Forestry Technician; State of Wisconsin—1-1/2 years Natural Resources Technician
Other Contributors		
Allan Borden	Wildlife	B.A., Biological Sciences, B.S., Wildlife Management; BLM—6-1/2 years Wildlife Biologist; Private industry and USFS—3/4 year Biological Technician
Charles Botdorf	Minerals	B.S., Geology; BLM—Geologist; U.S. Office of Surface Mining—1 year Geologist/Reclamation Specialist; State of Missouri—1 year Geologist/Hydrologist; U.S. Bureau of Reclamation—3 years Geologist
Elizabeth Bryant	Word Processor Operator	BLM—6 months Clerk-Typist; Private—13 years banking and clerical work
Julio Dominguez	Minerals	B.S., Mining Engineering; BLM—6 months Mining Engineer; U.S. Bureau of Mines—1 year Mining Engineer; Private—2 years Miner
Gary Ferrier	Wildlife	B.S., Wildlife Biology; BLM—15 years Wildlife Biologist
Manuel Gonzales	Lands Rights-of-Way	B.S., General Agriculture; BLM—18 years Realty Specialist, 1-1/2 years Planner, Public Affairs
Hal Hallett	Recreation, Wilderness	B.A., History, Graduate work, Environment Planning; BLM—5 years Outdoor Recreation Planner; State of California—7-1/4 years Park and Recreation Specialist, Park Ranger
Boma Johnson	Cultural Resources	B.A., Anthropology, M.A., Archaeology; BLM—9 years Cultural Resource Specialist
Brenda Miller	Illustrator	BLM Volunteer
Kay Milles	Word Processor Operator	BLM—4 years Clerk Typist
Theresa Nabozny	Word Processor Operator	BLM—1 year Clerk Typist; Private—8 months Office Aide
Jimmie D. Peterson	Air Quality	B.S., Environmental Health; BLM—7 years Physical Scientist; State of Montana—6 years Air Analyst; State of Michigan—6 years Sanitarian
John Phillips	Wild Horses & Burros, Soils and Water	B.S., Agriculture; 9-1/2 years Range conservationist

Evelyn Stob	Word Processor Operator	B.S., Business Administration; BLM—3 months Clerk-Steno; U.S. Forest Service—4 years Personnel Staffing Specialist; Air Force—3 years Personnel Clerk (Stenography); Private—8 years Real Estate Agent in California and Arizona
Marvin Weiss (Arizona State Office)	Economics	B.S., Agronomy; Graduate work Economics; BLM—9 years Regional Economist; Bureau of Reclamation—15 years Regional Economist
Jill Welch	Visual Resources	B.S., Recreation; BLM — 8 years Outdoor Recreation Planner
Mary Zavala	Word Processor Operator	BLM—7 years Clerk Typist

Table 5-3: ARIZONA STATE OFFICE SUPPORT TEAM
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Name	Title
Bob Abbey	Outdoor Recreation Planner
Bob Archibald	Realty Specialist
Ray Brady	Deputy State Director for Minerals
John Castellano	Wildlife Specialist
Jane Closson	Writer/Editor
Chester Gawin	Cartographer
Judy McDonald	Cartographer
Keith Pearson	Planning Coordinator
Jeannette Pranzo	Sociologist/Economist
George Ramey	Range Conservationist
Rob Roudabush	Hydrologist
Larry Teddia	Supervisory Cartographer
Stan Wagner	Environmental Specialist



CHAPTER 6

PUBLIC COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

This chapter is new. It displays most of the public comment letters received, a complete list of people and organizations attending one or more of the public meetings at which comments were received and BLM's responses to comments.

All comments, written or oral, were reviewed and considered. Comments that presented new data, questioned facts or analyses, or raised questions or issues bearing directly upon the alternatives or environmental analyses were responded to in this final RMP-EIS. Comments pertaining to wilderness were saved for the wilderness review process and will be evaluated separately. Comments expressing personal opinions and comments and letters received after May 10, 1985, were considered but not responded to directly.

A combined total of 437 people, organizations or governmental agencies submitted comments on the draft RMP-EIS. Of these, 351 separate comments required responses. Of the 361 comments, a total of 61 dealt specifically with wilderness and will be addressed in a separate environmental document in 1986. Table 6-1 displays the number of comments requiring a response by resource category.

Each letter and each public hearing statement has been assigned an index number (see Tables 6-2 and 6-3), and comments within individual letters and hearing statements are also numbered. These same index numbers, along with individual comment numbers, are used to identify BLM's responses to the letters and hearing statements. For example, response 192-2 refers to letter number 192, comment number 2. The letters are reprinted in the order they were received, followed by the public hearing transcripts and, finally, BLM's responses to comments. Some of the letters expressing personal opinion have not been reprinted here, but are grouped together and summarized (see summaries following letters 13, 34, 101, 102, 136 and 231 in the text). These letters are available for review at the Yuma District Office. A response to a comment identifies either that a change has been made in the RMP-EIS or provides rationale why changes were not made.

TABLE 6-1: NUMBER OF COMMENTS REQUIRING RESPONSE, BY RESOURCE
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Resource	Number of Comments*
Wildlife	76
Special Management Areas	43
Grazing	33
Land Ownership Adjustment	19
Rights-of-Way	29
Recreation	53
Wilderness	61
Floodplain	3
Minerals	45
Vegetation	3
Economics/Social	3
Other	42
Total Comments Requiring Response	361

*These numbers cannot be added to total 361 because some comments addressed more than one resource.

Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1985.

TABLE 6-2: LETTER WRITERS
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Letter No.	Agency and/or Individual
1	Santa Fe Pacific Railroad Company (G. G. Byers)
2	Arizona State Parks, State Historic Preservation Offices (Donna J. Schober)
3	United Four Wheel Drive Associations (Stu Bengson)
4	Jim Livermore
5	City of Yuma, Planning Division (Kathy F. Lofink)
6	Herb Garlitz
7	State of California, Native American Heritage Commission (Loretta E. Allen)
8	National Park Service, Western Region (Howard H. Chapman)
9	U.S. Marine Corps, Yuma MCAS (Lt. Col. R. J. Stocking)
10	Arizona State University, Center for Environmental Studies (Robert D. Ohmart)

Letter No.	Agency and/or Individual
11	Elliott Bernshaw
12	Harry Melts
13	Mr. and Mrs. Norman Pegues
14	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hemmert
15	Mr. and Mrs. John D'Orio
16	Mr. and Mrs. A. Learn
17	Mr. and Mrs. Art Iniley
18	Dan Patet
19	Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Jones
20	Mrs. D. P. Cripe
21	Mr. and Mrs. Phil Teljeur
22	Mr. and Mrs. James Dirksen
23	Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Roloff
24	Mr. and Mrs. Robert Jacobson
25	Anonymous
26	Mr. and Mrs. John Simpson
27	Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Rigdon
28	Mr. and Mrs. Earl Archer
29	C. H. Anderson
30	Mr. and Mrs. George Moldenhauer
31	Mr. and Mrs. Lester Mitchell
32	Mr. and Mrs. Ward Carroll
33	Mr. and Mrs. David Childs
34	Jack Devault
35	Lois Tyson
36	Mr. and Mrs. Harry McGee
37	Ray Needham
38	Mr. and Mrs. Fred Humphreys
39	Virgil Van Alstine
40	Mr. and Mrs. Norm Theobald
41	James E. Manley
42	Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Hall
43	Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Bryden
44	Mr. and Mrs. Cameron Page
45	Mr. and Mrs. Roger Dillavou
46	Mr. and Mrs. Don Groff
47	Betty Beck and Luetta Goertzen
48	David R. Hunt
49	Mr. and Mrs. John Spicer
50	Mr. and Mrs. Francis Vogelsberg
51	Mr. and Mrs. Fred Curtis
52	Town of Parker (Town Council)
53	Dick Pruett
54	Pacific Gas and Electric Company (E. L. Nurisso)
55	Department of the Air Force, Western Region (Phillip E. Lammi)
56	Mr. and Mrs. Votis Minium
57	Mr. and Mrs. F. Montgomery
58	Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Harris
59	Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Romey
60	Mr. and Mrs. George Culbert
61	Mr. and Mrs. Marcel Caron
62	Mr. and Mrs. Frank Steviac
63	State of California, Native American Heritage Commission (John D. Smith)
64	Lothar M. Schmidt
65	Larry Van Dusen
66	Mr. and Mrs. Virgel Tharp
67	Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Slimmer
68	Congressman Bob Stump
69	Jesse G. Scott
70	R. D. Cooper
71	Brian R. Cowger
72	John MacDonald
73	E.V.E. Mining Enterprise (Harry Smith)
74	John R. Wildon
75	Mr. and Mrs. Everest Lilje
76	Mr. and Mrs. Pat Cole
77	Mr. and Mrs. Pete Parga
78	James Everett
79	Richard Cooke
80	Walter H. Pappin
81	Roland J. Chalifour
82	Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Beday
83	Mr. and Mrs. Don Salmen
84	Jack Dolan
85	Kenneth W. Furra
86	Mr. and Mrs. Eldar Miller
87	W. C. Salodin
88	J. P. Herz
89	Wally Sisler
90	Mr. and Mrs. David T. Zegler
91	Arizona Bureau of Geology and Mineral Technology (Larry D. Fellows)
92	Bobbie Holaday
93	Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Isaacson
94	Mr. and Mrs. Frank Braunschweig
95	SCORE International (Sal Fish)
96	MCI (Fred Hubbell)
97	Frederick W. Fish
98	Bert W. Gossett
99	Richard Alexander
100	E. Anderson
101	Mrs. Gene Anne Parker
102	Janice C. Luepke
103	Donald M. Currie
104	Harry Oliverius
105	Mr. and Mrs. John J. Gunkel
106	William A. Facinelli
107	Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Lilly
108	Mr. and Mrs. John Rich
109	Ida May Oliverius
110	Rosemary P. Spaulding
111	John Prater
112	Leroy Zimmerman
113	Frank S. Loulan
114	Eloise G. Black
115	M. K. Daly
116	Nancy L. Russell
117	Scott Hudson
118	Robert J. Schmidli
119	John T. Winter
120	Walter A. McCleneghan
121	Dan Ayers
122	Sara Traum
123	Nancy Tubey
124	John S. Jachim
125	Karl Greenblatt
126	Greg Barr
127	John F. Pamperin
128	J. T. Zahnle III et. al.
129	Petty Ann Doty
130	Majorie Woodruff
131	Rose Marie King

Letter No.	Agency and/or Individual
132	J. Salty Honcharik
133	Dora Newman-Samuels
134	D. Scott Samuels
135	Mr. and Mrs. Flynn C. Kelly
136	Mr. and Mrs. Fred Salinger
137	Mary Sojourner
138	Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Bennett
139	Richard Faith
140	Dorothy Lees Riddle
141	Phil Briggs
142	Four Corners Wilderness Workshop (Donavon H. Lyngholm)
143	Petition (Glenn I. Biddle; 137 signatures)
144	Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Chatham
145	Sue Baughman
146	Walter's Camp, Inc. (Frank A. Dokter)
147	Neil J. Klemek
148	Mrs. George Vlassis
149	Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Dahlman
150	Marcia Colliat
151	Rebecca P. Allison
152	Bettina Bickel
153	State Representative Robert J. "Bob" McLendon
154	Yuma County (Andrew O. Torres)
155	Mr. and Mrs. Burton Nagel
156	Palo Verde Irrigation District (Gerald M. Davisson)
157	Palo Verde Valley Rod and Gun Club (Jack Page)
158	Lillian A. Santamaria
159	Henry and Joy Schultz, Hope Weisbach
160	Ann S. Johnson
161	Mr. and Mrs. Fred Nelson
162	J. Lorenzini
163	Nancy Stevenson
164	Victoria M. Schiffer
165	Larry Langstaff
166	Bob Wirth
167	Kevin J. Fernlund
168	Joseph M. Califf, Jr.
169	Lillian Longley
170	Elizabeth Bruch
171	Herb McReynolds
172	Mr. and Mrs. Charles Buhler
173	Arizona State Land Department (Robert K. Lane)
174	Burnet F. Wohlford
175	Holly Carman
176	Mr. and Mrs. V. T. Robertson
177	Annette Emig
178	Mr. and Mrs. Earl Heineken
179	CoCo Savage
180	Havasu Heights Ranch and Development Corporation (Robert E. Klemm)
181	Arizona Department of Transportation, Highways Division (Philip A. Shucet)
182	Rhoda V. Varn
183	Sidney M. Hirsh
184	John E. Earl
185	Tris M. and Molly C. Coffin
186	Gene I. Wendt
187	International Boundary and Water Commission (D. D. McNealy)
188	Parker Area Chamber of Commerce (Dorothy Randall)
189	Robert A. Kerry

Letter No.	Agency and/or Individual
190	Rick Sudemann
191	Linda Schnabel Stitzer
192	Defenders of Wildlife (Steve Johnson)
193	Mr. and Mrs. Joe Key
194	Wallace J. Gibbs
195	Central Arizona Water Conservation District (John E. Simmons)
196	National Parks and Conservation Association (Russell D. Butcher)
197	U.S. Bureau of Mines (William Cochran)
198	Nancy G. Shacklett
199	Richard Pruett
200	La Paz County Board of Supervisors (Donald D. Denton)
201	Colorado River Board of California (Vernon E. Valantine)
202	Gold Fields Mining Corporation (William C. Feirn)
203	Buck Burdette
204	Kathryn A. Michel
205	La Paz County Board of Supervisors (A. J. Percuoco)
206	Mr. and Mrs. Paul C. Bosch
207	University of Arizona Range Task Force (Del W. Despain)
208	Black Meadow Landing on Lake Havasu (George H. Field)
209	Colorado River Development Association (Phil Younis)
210	California Department of Conservation (Dennis J. O'Bryant)
211	Sarah RPK. Hepburn et. al
212	Yuma County Water Users' Association (Barrett Kehl)
213	George F. Davis Cummings
214	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Kofa National Wildlife Refuge (Milton Haderlie)
215	The Wildlife Society, Arizona Chapter (W. G.. Kepner)
216	Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Inc. (Stephen M. Williams)
217	John R. Swanson
218	Department of Energy, Western Area Power Administration (G. J. Giles)
219	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Imperial National Wildlife Refuge (Claire S. Caldes)
220	San Diego Gas & Electric (J. C. Barnett)
221	Kathryn A. Michel
222	Dan Fischer
223	Wildlife Management Institute (Daniel A. Poole)
224	Colorado River Development Association (Phil Younis)
225	Steve Nelson and John Pechous
226	Jeff D. Dorroh
227	Petition (Yuma Gem and Mineral Society; 46 signatures)
228	Yuma Audubon Society (Cary W. Meister)
229	Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation and Drainage District (C. L. Gould)
230	City of Yuma, Special Services Department (Gwen Robinson)
231	Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lynn and L. Steve Bell
232	James L. Smith
233	Dale Johnson
234	Pete Peterson
235	Douglas D. Hunt
236	Gary P. Howard
237	William Illingworth
238	Opal Illingworth
239	Cay Cousin
240	L. C. Miller
241	Clinton F. Huntoon
242	Michael R. Thompson
243	Marlene Wilson

Letter No.	Agency and/or Individual
244	Mr. and Mrs. John Whitson
245	R. L. Brauaman
246	Paul E. Neff
247	P. W. Thompson
248	Emile Claude
249	K. O. Sherwood
250	Deloris Harrington
251	Gene Mrotek
252	R. R. Palmer
253	Fred Williams
254	Louis C. McHenry
255	Name illegible—from Chandler, Arizona
256	Gene A. Vesely
257	Randi Shumway
258	T. H. Schroeder
259	James Heeringa
260	Ralph F. Griffin, Jr.
261	C. R. Hafford
262	Colorado River Indian Tribes (Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger, Counsel for CRIT; Alletta d'A Belin)
263	La Paz County Board of Supervisors (Donald D. Denton)
264	Daryl Romeyn
265	Arizona Mining Association (R. J. Pursley)
266	Arizona State Land Department (Robert K. Lane)
267	Mr. and Mrs. Walter Pelech
268	The Desert Tortoise Council (Daniel C. Pearson)
269	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX (Charles W. Murray, Jr.)
270	Jack Denton
271	Riverside County Planning Department (Jerry Jolliffe)
272	Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Roth
273	Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Abbott
274	John F. Mediz
275	Robert D. Hamilton
276	William L. Burney
277	Mr. and Mrs. Willie Krueger
278	Ernest Fetzer
279	Orrell Mae Stedman
280	John Blankenship
281	Edward J. Collins
282	James L. Collins
283	R. Stoughton, Jr.
284	D. Twitetell
285	Eula Belle Bohme
286	Kendrick Holiday
287	Elizabeth F. Palmer
288	M. G. Bush
289	Thomas J. Furqueran
290	Ruth White
291	Hondo Dunn
292	Glenna C. Auld
293	Dottie M. Williamson
294	Harry Williamson
295	James Q. Rice
296	Steve Henderson
297	Arley Escapule
298	Wayne Winters
299	Bailey Escapule
300	Joyce T. Wright
301	Vijaye S. Wilkes
302	Arthur J. Graves
303	David Johnson
304	Dolores K. Uker
305	William E. Bohme
306	Susan Thompson
307	Charles Swab
308	Richard Kendall
309	U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (James P. Knight)
310	Valerie Peyson
311	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Gilbert D. Metz)
312	Colorado River Development Association (Phil Younis)
313	Robert R. Aker
314	Charles J. Campbell
315	Edward H. Murphy
316	Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District (Carl F. Enson)
317	Southern California Edison Company (Dale L. Woodward)
318	Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Sams
319	Geoffrey Platts
320	Arizona R.V. & Campers Park Association (Barbara A. Duncan)
321	Matt McWenie and Ken Bunch
322	Randall Sowa
323	Mrs. Sherry Gillingham
324	P. A. Nisbet
325	Joan Ridder
326	Arizona Game & Fish Department (Bud Bristow)
327	George E. Johnston
328	David M. Band
329	Mary C. Nemtin
330	Jane C. Spencer
331	Richard A. Coxhead
332	Donald A. Braun
333	Mr. and Mrs. Ross Wolff
334	Cecily C. Grange
335	Jule Drown
336	Helene Unland-Ringel
337	L. E. Spesard
338	Linnea Holland
339	William A. David
340	James S. Greene
341	Mark Sterkel
342	Gene R. Ralph and Gary O. LaRose
343	Arizona Wildlife Federation (Ace H. Peterson)
344	J. M. Myers
345	Mr. and Mrs. S. Alberto Castaneda
346	William Beaver
347	Clark S. Atkinson
348	Edward P. Klohe
*349	B. Larsen
350	David Mishki
351	Heather S. Hatch
352	The Resources Agency of California (Gordon F. Snow)
353	David Adams
354	Mohave County Board of Supervisors (Jerry A. Holt)
355	Arizona State Parks (Michael A. Ramnes)
356	Ruth G. M. Clay
357	Diana Spencer
358	Carroll R. Munz
359	Ed Bramel
360	Abigail Hagler
361	Kenneth E. Root
362	Patricia Gahagan
363	Robert Wharton, Jr.

Letter No.	Agency and/or Individual
364	Alma Greene
365	Jim Hutton
366	Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Regional Office (Roy D. Gear)
367	Marcus Jernigan
368	Vincent Semonsen
369	Mr. and Mrs. Tucker Burling
370	Karen S. Moses

*Letters numbered 349–370 were received too late to be responded to in the final RMP-EIS, but they will be considered in our decision-making process.

Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1985.

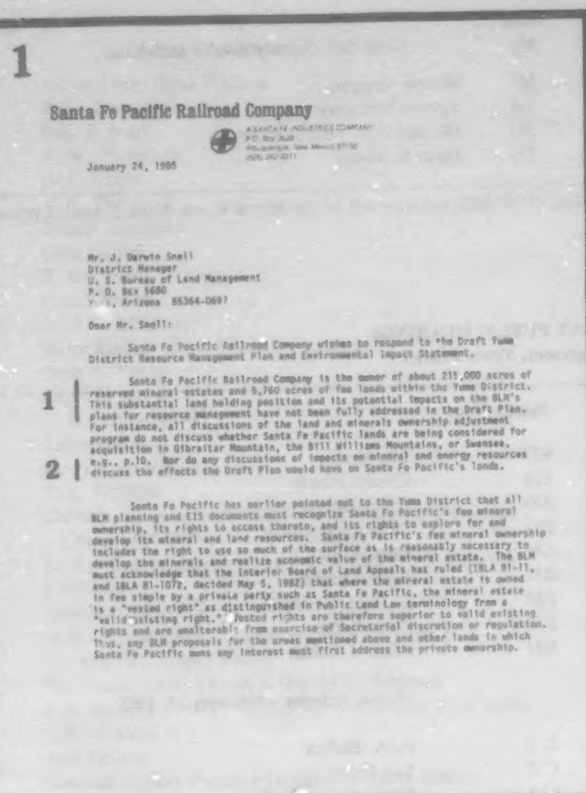
TABLE 6-3: SPEAKERS AT PUBLIC HEARINGS
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Speaker No.	Name
	Lake Havasu City, Arizona – February 26, 1985
A 1	Town of Parker (Bruce Jacobson)
A 2	Town of Parker (Gerald Hunt)
A 3	SCORE International (Sal Fish)
A 4	Bill Charnley
A 5	Herb Garlitz
A 6	Gordon Gilbertson
A 7	Dorothy Moerike
A 8	August Moerike
A 9	Parker Area Chamber of Commerce (Dottie Randall)
A10	George F. Davis Cummings
	Blythe, California – February 27, 1985
B 1	Dave Robb
B 2	Joe Gabler
B 3	Colorado River Indian Tribe (Charles Lamb)
B 4	Earl Wickersham
B 5	Marie Wickersham
B 6	Bill Chrestman
B 7	Clarence Gracely
B 8	Margaret Gracely
B 9	Don McKay
B10	E. W. Beck
B11	Helen Beck
B12	Hazel Vincent
B13	Don Todd
B14	Martin Jorde
B15	Bob Todd
B16	Nathan Johnson
B17	Marilyn McFate
B18	John McFate
B19	Bertha Boucher
B20	Geneva Allread
B21	Leslie McWethy
B22	Walt Ketchum
B23	O. J. Wikstrom
B24	W. E. Boston
B25	David Trenholm
B26	Jack Brock
B27	Lily Heatly
B28	Charles Heatly
B29	Frank Dokter
B30	Betty Conzelmann
B31	Chet Hunt
B32	Samual Heflin
B33	C. Dean Houghtelin
B34	Doris Parker
B35	Allen C. Bridge
	Yuma, Arizona – February 28, 1985
C 1	P. A. Birdick
C 2	Ken Omey
C 3	Maynard Campbell
C 4	Les Bunde
C 5	Walter Wooley
C 6	Paul Kubinski
C 7	Dean Haughtelin
C 8	U.S. Marine Corps (Bradley Baird)
C 9	Leslie Kumler
C10	Owen Londberg
C11	Mountain Bell (Don Smith)
C12	Mountain Bell (Bob Followwill)
C13	Arizona Small Mining Operators' Association (Janel Smith)
C14	Yuma Audubon Society (Kathryn Michel)
C15	Michael McBride
C16	International Boundary and Water Commission (Bob Bond)
	Phoenix, Arizona – March 5, 1985
D 1	Drew Crook
D 2	Arizona Wilderness Coalition (Joni Bosh)
D 3	Arizona Mining Association (Jack Pursley)
D 4	Arizona Commission of Agriculture and Horticulture (R. A. Countryman)
D 5	Caroline Butler
D 6	Tom Wright

Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1985.

Letters

1



Santa Fe Pacific Railroad Company
A SANTA FE INDUSTRIES COMPANY
P.O. Box [illegible]
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87190
(505) 262-2211

January 24, 1985

Mr. J. Darwin Snell
District Manager
U. S. Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 5680
Y[illegible], Arizona 85364-0697

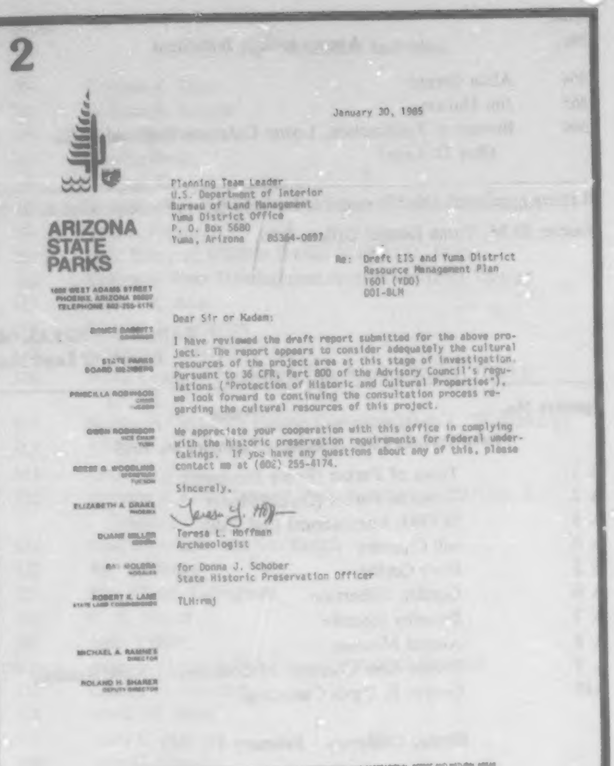
Dear Mr. Snell:

Santa Fe Pacific Railroad Company wishes to respond to the Draft Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

1 Santa Fe Pacific Railroad Company is the owner of about 215,000 acres of reserved mineral estates and 5,760 acres of fee lands within the Yuma District. This substantial land holding position and its potential impacts on the BLM's plans for resource management have not been fully addressed in the Draft Plan. For instance, all discussions of the land and minerals ownership adjustment program do not discuss whether Santa Fe Pacific lands are being considered for acquisition in Gibraltar Mountain, the Bill Williams Mountains, or Swansea, e.g., p.10.
2 Nor do any discussions of impacts on mineral and energy resources discuss the effects the Draft Plan would have on Santa Fe Pacific's lands.

Santa Fe Pacific has earlier pointed out to the Yuma District that all BLM planning and EIS documents must recognize Santa Fe Pacific's fee mineral ownership, its rights to access thereto, and its rights to explore for and develop its mineral and land resources. Santa Fe Pacific's fee mineral ownership includes the right to use so much of the surface as is reasonably necessary to develop the minerals and realize economic value of the mineral estate. The BLM must acknowledge that the Interior Board of Land Appeals has ruled (IBLA 81-11, and IBLA 81-1072, decided May 5, 1982) that where the mineral estate is owned in fee simple by a private party such as Santa Fe Pacific, the mineral estate is a "vested right" as distinguished in Public Land Law terminology from a "valid existing right." Vested rights are therefore superior to valid existing rights and are unalterable from exercise of Secretarial discretion or regulation. Thus, any BLM proposals for the areas mentioned above and other lands in which Santa Fe Pacific owns any interest must first address the private ownership.

2



ARIZONA
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PARKS

1688 WEST ADAMS STREET
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007
TELEPHONE 602-255-4174

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MICHAEL A. RAMNES
DIRECTOR

ROLAND H. SHARER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

January 30, 1985

Planning Team Leader
U.S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P. O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

Re: Draft EIS and Yuma District
Resource Management Plan
1601 (YDO)
DOI-BLM

Dear Sir or Madam:

I have reviewed the draft report submitted for the above project. The report appears to consider adequately the cultural resources of the project area at this stage of investigation. Pursuant to 36 CFR, Part 800 of the Advisory Council's regulations ("Protection of Historic and Cultural Properties"), we look forward to continuing the consultation process regarding the cultural resources of this project.

We appreciate your cooperation with this office in complying with the historic preservation requirements for federal undertakings. If you have any questions about any of this, please contact me at (602) 255-4174.

Sincerely,

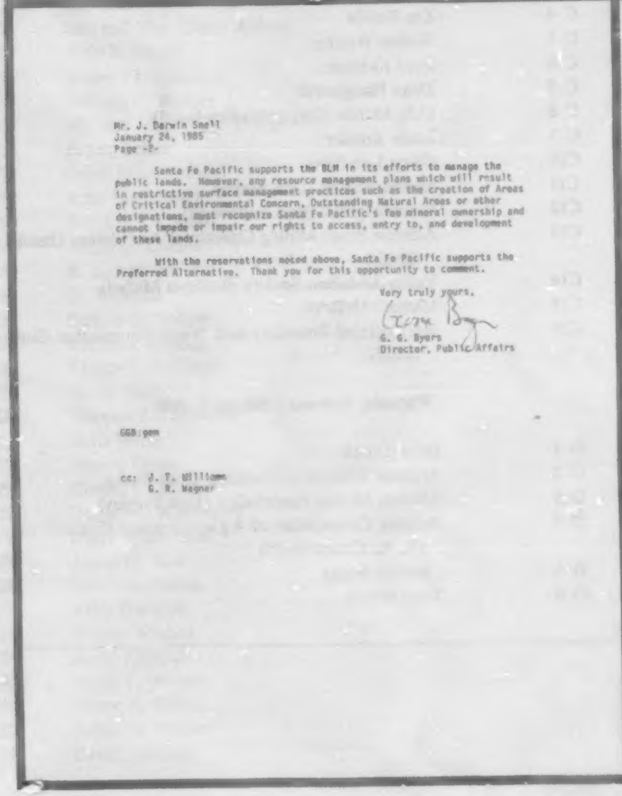
Teresa L. Hoffman

Teresa L. Hoffman
Archaeologist

for Donna J. Schober
State Historic Preservation Officer

TLH:rmj

CONSERVING AND MANAGING ARIZONA'S HISTORIC PLACES, HISTORIC SITES AND RECREATIONAL, SCENIC AND NATURAL AREAS



Mr. J. Darwin Snell
January 24, 1985
Page -2-

Santa Fe Pacific supports the BLM in its efforts to manage the public lands. However, any resource management plans which will result in restrictive surface management practices such as the creation of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern, Outstanding Natural Areas or other designations, must recognize Santa Fe Pacific's fee mineral ownership and cannot impede or impair our rights to access, entry to, and development of these lands.

With the reservations noted above, Santa Fe Pacific supports the Preferred Alternative. Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

Very truly yours,

G. G. Byers
Director, Public Affairs

GGB:gem

cc: J. T. Williams
G. R. Wagner

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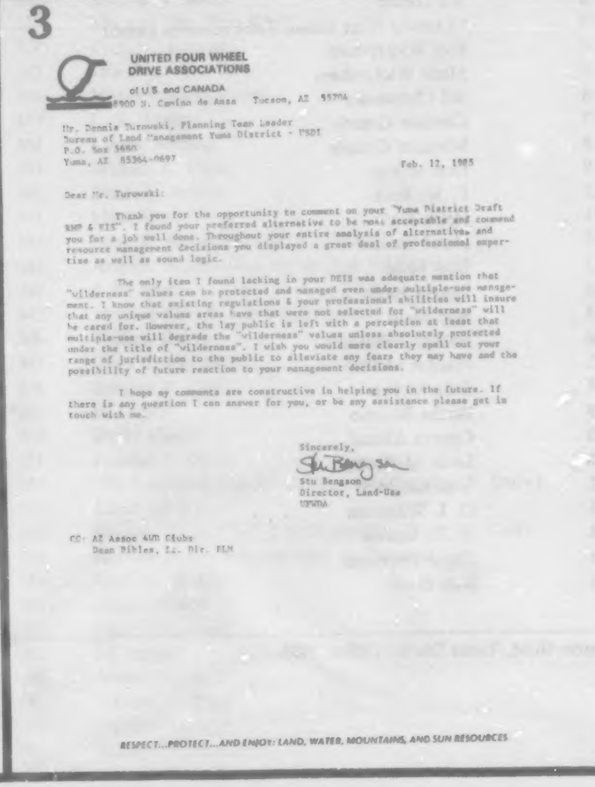


UNITED FOUR WHEEL
DRIVE ASSOCIATIONS
of U.S. and CANADA
8900 N. Camino de Anza Tucson, AZ 85704

Mr. Dennis Turowski, Planning Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management Yuma District - USDI
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, AZ 85364-0697

Feb. 12, 1985

Dear Mr. Turowski:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on your "Yuma District Draft RMP & EIS". I found your preferred alternative to be most acceptable and commend you for a job well done. Throughout your entire analysis of alternatives and resource management decisions you displayed a great deal of professional expertise as well as sound logic.

The only item I found lacking in your DEIS was adequate mention that "wilderness" values can be protected and managed even under multiple-use management. I know that existing regulations & your professional abilities will insure that any unique values areas have that were not selected for "wilderness" will be cared for. However, the lay public is left with a perception at least that multiple-use will degrade the "wilderness" values unless absolutely protected under the title of "wilderness". I wish you would more clearly spell out your range of jurisdiction to the public to alleviate any fears they may have and the possibility of future reaction to your management decisions.

I hope my comments are constructive in helping you in the future. If there is any question I can answer for you, or be any assistance please get in touch with me.

Sincerely,

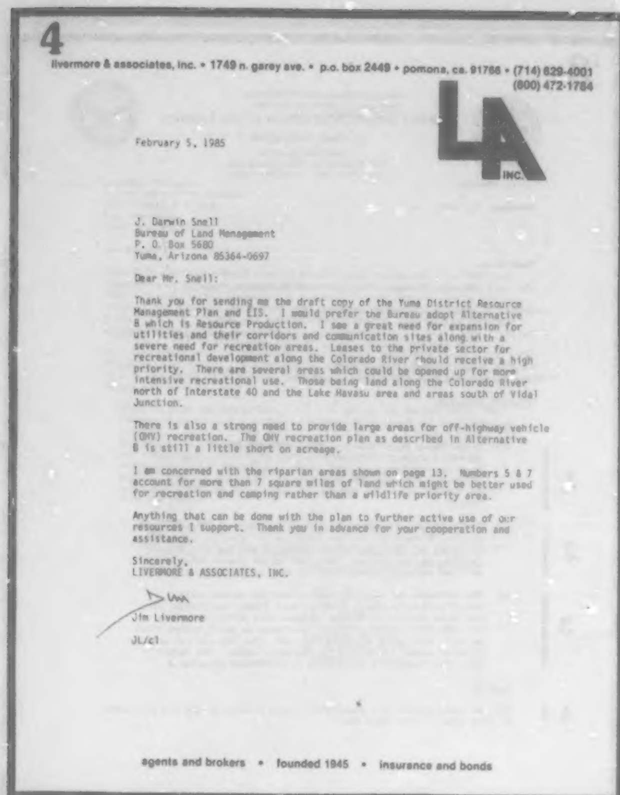
Stu Bengson

Stu Bengson
Director, Land-Use
UFWDA

CC: AZ Assoc 4WD Clubs
Dean Bibles, St. Dir. BLM

RESPECT...PROTECT...AND ENJOY: LAND, WATER, MOUNTAINS, AND SUN RESOURCES

4



livermore & associates, inc. • 1749 n. garey ave. • p.o. box 2449 • pomona, ca. 91766 • (714) 629-4001
(800) 472-1784

LA INC.

February 5, 1985

J. Darwin Snell
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

Dear Mr. Snell:

Thank you for sending me the draft copy of the Yuma District Resource Management Plan and EIS. I would prefer the Bureau adopt Alternative B which is Resource Production. I see a great need for expansion for utilities and their corridors and communication sites along with a severe need for recreation areas. Leases to the private sector for recreational development along the Colorado River should receive a high priority. There are several areas which could be opened up for more intensive recreational use. Those being land along the Colorado River north of Interstate 40 and the Lake Havasu area and areas south of Vidal Junction.

There is also a strong need to provide large areas for off-highway vehicle (OHV) recreation. The OHV recreation plan as described in Alternative B is still a little short on acreage.

I am concerned with the riparian areas shown on page 13. Numbers 5 & 7 account for more than 7 square miles of land which might be better used for recreation and camping rather than a wildlife priority area.

Anything that can be done with the plan to further active use of our resources I support. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and assistance.

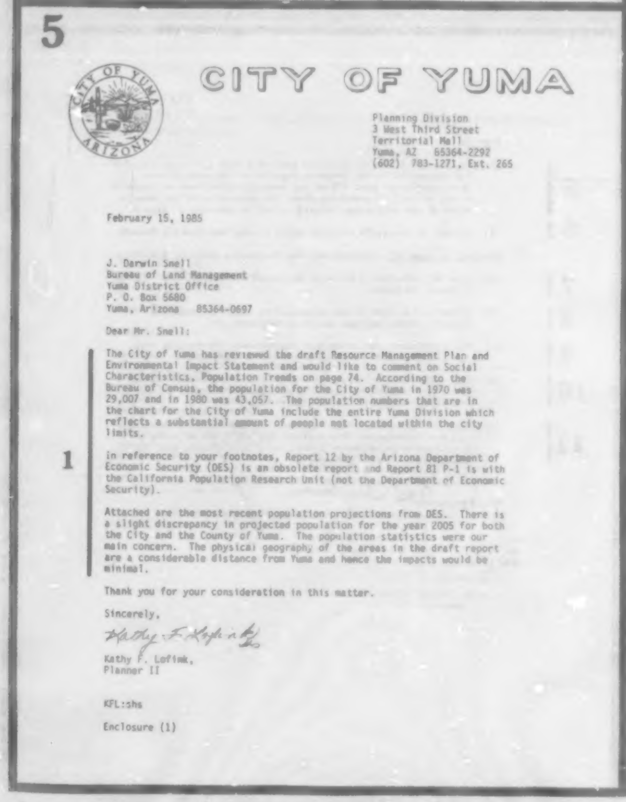
Sincerely,
LIVERMORE & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Jim Livermore

JL/cl

agents and brokers • founded 1945 • insurance and bonds

5



CITY OF YUMA

CITY OF YUMA
ARIZONA

Planning Division
3 West Third Street
Territorial Mall
Yuma, AZ 85364-2292
(602) 783-1271, Ext. 265

February 15, 1985

J. Darwin Snell
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P. O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

Dear Mr. Snell:

The City of Yuma has reviewed the draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement and would like to comment on Social Characteristics, Population Trends on page 74. According to the Bureau of Census, the population for the City of Yuma in 1970 was 29,007 and in 1980 was 43,057. The population numbers that are in the chart for the City of Yuma include the entire Yuma Division which reflects a substantial amount of people not located within the city limits.

1 In reference to your footnotes, Report 12 by the Arizona Department of Economic Security (DES) is an obsolete report and Report 81 P-1 is with the California Population Research Unit (not the Department of Economic Security).

Attached are the most recent population projections from DES. There is a slight discrepancy in projected population for the year 2005 for both the City and the County of Yuma. The population statistics were our main concern. The physical geography of the areas in the draft report are a considerable distance from Yuma and hence the impacts would be minimal.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Kathy F. Lofink

Kathy F. Lofink,
Planner II

KFL:shs

Enclosure (1)

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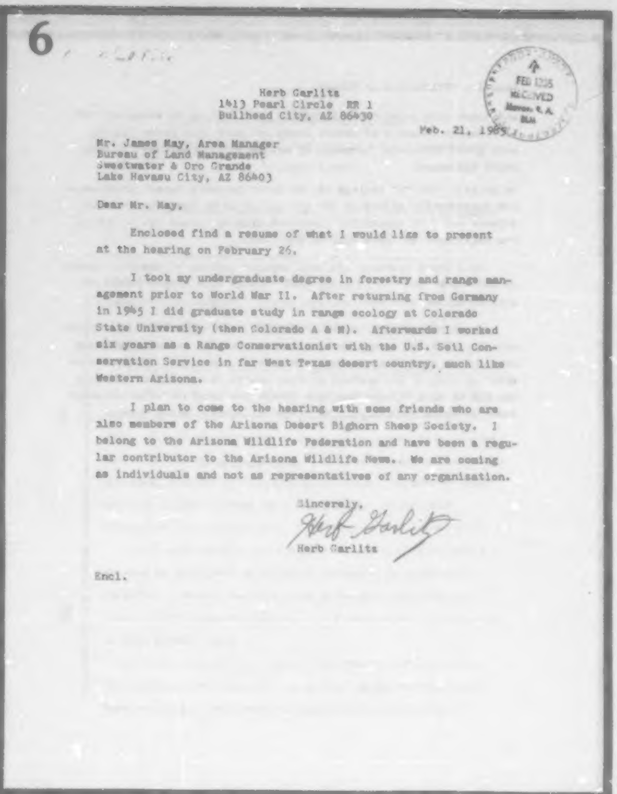


FEB 1985
RECEIVED
Havasu R. A.
BLM

Herb Garlitz
1413 Pearl Circle RR 1
Bullhead City, AZ 86430

Feb. 21, 1985

Mr. James May, Area Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Sweetwater & Oro Grande
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

Dear Mr. May,

Enclosed find a resume of what I would like to present at the hearing on February 26.

I took my undergraduate degree in forestry and range management prior to World War II. After returning from Germany in 1945 I did graduate study in range ecology at Colorado State University (then Colorado A & M). Afterwards I worked six years as a Range Conservationist with the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in far West Texas desert country, much like Western Arizona.

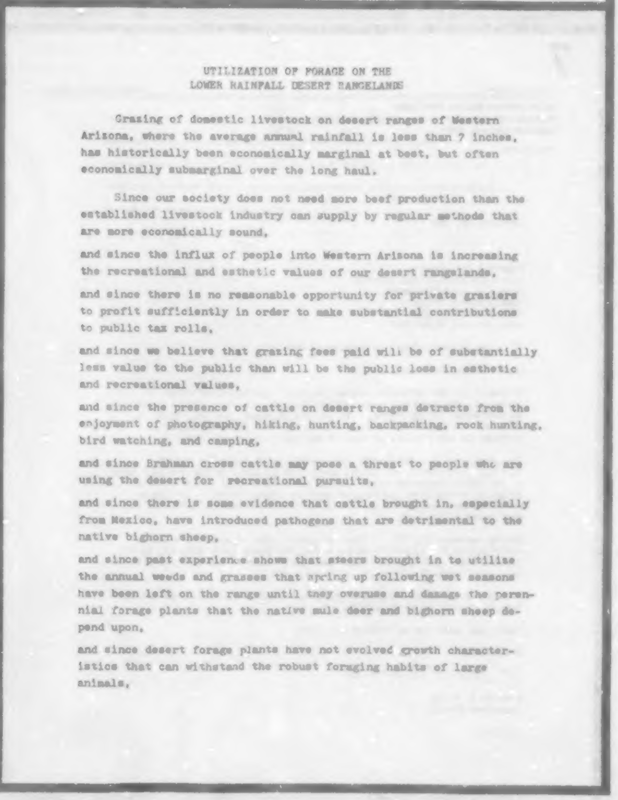
I plan to come to the hearing with some friends who are also members of the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society. I belong to the Arizona Wildlife Federation and have been a regular contributor to the Arizona Wildlife News. We are coming as individuals and not as representatives of any organization.

Sincerely,

Herb Garlitz

Herb Garlitz

Encl.



UTILIZATION OF FORAGE ON THE
LOWER RAINFALL DESERT RANGELANDS

Grazing of domestic livestock on desert ranges of Western Arizona, where the average annual rainfall is less than 7 inches, has historically been economically marginal at best, but often economically submarginal over the long haul.

Since our society does not need more beef production than the established livestock industry can supply by regular methods that are more economically sound,

and since the influx of people into Western Arizona is increasing the recreational and esthetic values of our desert rangelands,

and since there is no reasonable opportunity for private graziers to profit sufficiently in order to make substantial contributions to public tax rolls,

and since we believe that grazing fees paid will be of substantially less value to the public than will be the public loss in esthetic and recreational values,

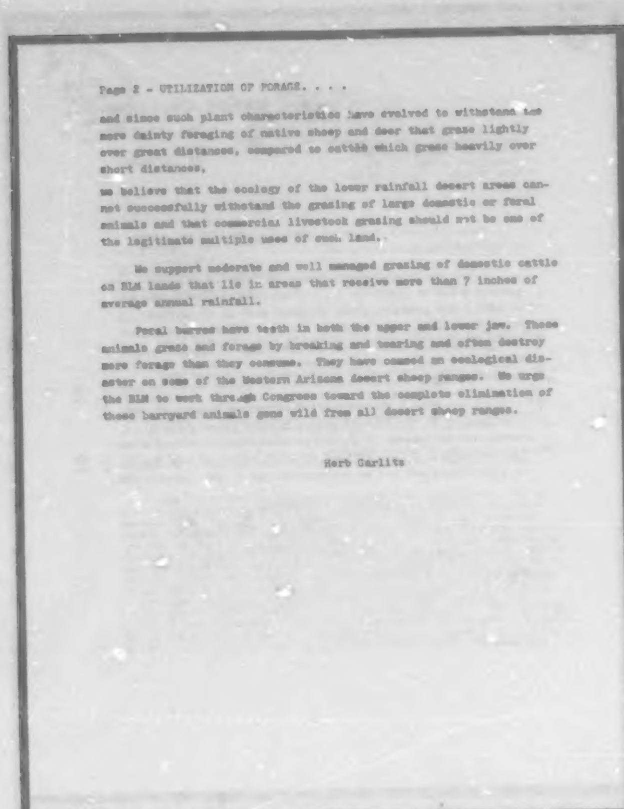
and since the presence of cattle on desert ranges detracts from the enjoyment of photography, hiking, hunting, backpacking, rock hunting, bird watching, and camping,

and since Brahman cross cattle may pose a threat to people who are using the desert for recreational pursuits,

and since there is some evidence that cattle brought in, especially from Mexico, have introduced pathogens that are detrimental to the native bighorn sheep,

and since past experience shows that steers brought in to utilize the annual weeds and grasses that spring up following wet seasons have been left on the range until they overuse and damage the perennial forage plants that the native mule deer and bighorn sheep depend upon,

and since desert forage plants have not evolved growth characteristics that can withstand the robust foraging habits of large animals,



Page 2 - UTILIZATION OF FORAGE. . . .

and since such plant characteristics have evolved to withstand the more dainty foraging of native sheep and deer that graze lightly over great distances, compared to cattle which graze heavily over short distances,

we believe that the ecology of the lower rainfall desert areas cannot successfully withstand the grazing of large domestic or feral animals and that commercial livestock grazing should not be one of the legitimate multiple uses of such land.

We support moderate and well managed grazing of domestic cattle on BLM lands that lie in areas that receive more than 7 inches of average annual rainfall.

Feral burros have teeth in both the upper and lower jaw. These animals graze and forage by breaking and tearing and often destroy more forage than they consume. They have caused an ecological disaster on some of the Western Arizona desert sheep ranges. We urge the BLM to work through Congress toward the complete elimination of these barnyard animals gone wild from all desert sheep ranges.

Herb Garlits

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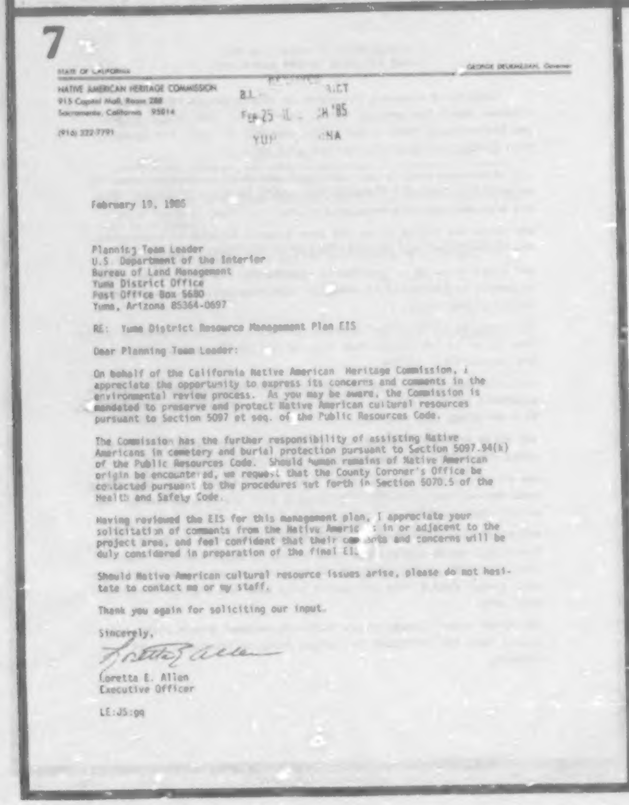

STATE OF CALIFORNIA — GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
915 Capitol Mall, Room 288
Sacramento, California 95814

(916) 322-7791

BL ICT
FEB 25 AM '85
YUM NA

February 19, 1985

Planning Team Leader
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
Post Office Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

RE: Yuma District Resource Management Plan EIS

Dear Planning Team Leader:

On behalf of the California Native American Heritage Commission, I appreciate the opportunity to express its concerns and comments in the environmental review process. As you may be aware, the Commission is mandated to preserve and protect Native American cultural resources pursuant to Section 5097 et seq. of the Public Resources Code.

The Commission has the further responsibility of assisting Native Americans in cemetery and burial protection pursuant to Section 5097.94(k) of the Public Resources Code. Should human remains of Native American origin be encountered, we request that the County Coroner's Office be contacted pursuant to the procedures set forth in Section 5070.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

Having reviewed the EIS for this management plan, I appreciate your solicitation of comments from the Native Americans in or adjacent to the project area, and feel confident that their comments and concerns will be duly considered in preparation of the final EIS.

Should Native American cultural resource issues arise, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff.

Thank you again for soliciting our input.

Sincerely,

Loretta E. Allen
Executive Officer

LE:JS:gq

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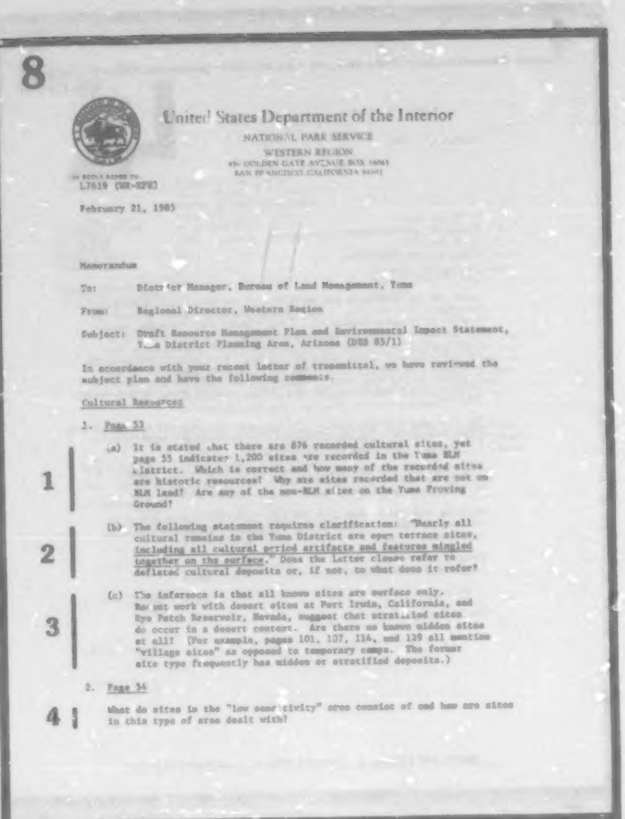


United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WESTERN REGION
450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE, BOX 36063
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102

IN REPLY REFER TO:
L7619 (WR-RPE)

February 21, 1985

Memorandum

To: District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Yuma

From: Regional Director, Western Region

Subject: Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, Yuma District Planning Area, Arizona (DES 85/1)

In accordance with your recent letter of transmittal, we have reviewed the subject plan and have the following comments.

Cultural Resources

1. Page 53

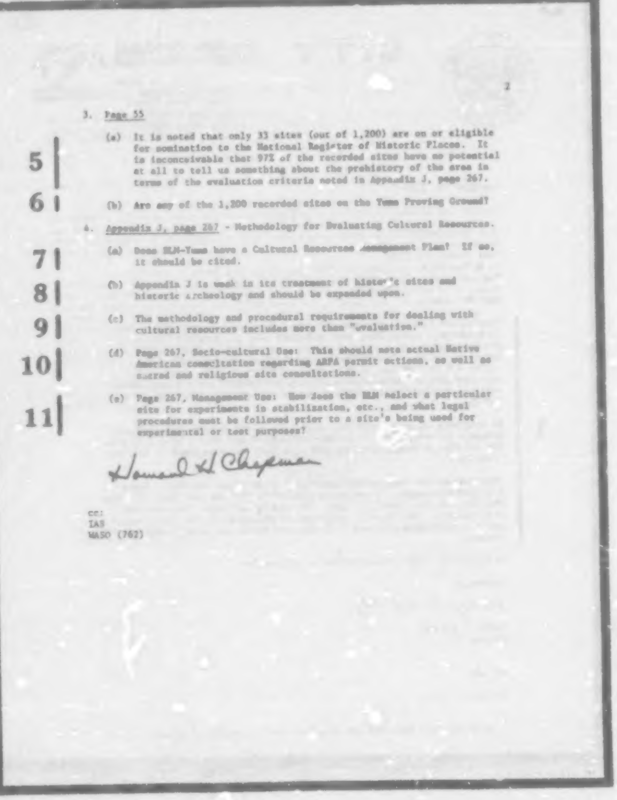
1 (a) It is stated that there are 876 recorded cultural sites, yet page 55 indicates 1,200 sites are recorded in the Yuma BLM District. Which is correct and how many of the recorded sites are historic resources? Why are sites recorded that are not on BLM land? Are any of the non-BLM sites on the Yuma Proving Ground?

2 (b) The following statement requires clarification: "Nearly all cultural remains in the Yuma District are open terrace sites, including all cultural period artifacts and features mingled together on the surface." Does the latter clause refer to deflated cultural deposits or, if not, to what does it refer?

3 (c) The inference is that all known sites are surface only. Recent work with desert sites at Fort Irwin, California, and Rye Patch Reservoir, Nevada, suggest that stratified sites do occur in a desert context. Are there no known midden sites at all? (For example, pages 101, 107, 114, and 129 all mention "village sites" as opposed to temporary camps. The former site type frequently has midden or stratified deposits.)

2. Page 54

4 What do sites in the "low sensitivity" area consist of and how are sites in this type of area dealt with?



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3. Page 55

5 (a) It is noted that only 33 sites (out of 1,200) are on or eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. It is inconceivable that 97% of the recorded sites have no potential at all to tell us something about the prehistory of the area in terms of the evaluation criteria noted in Appendix J, page 267.

6 (b) Are any of the 1,200 recorded sites on the Yuma Proving Ground?

4. Appendix J, page 267 - Methodology for Evaluating Cultural Resources.

7 (a) Does BLM-Yuma have a Cultural Resources Management Plan? If so, it should be cited.

8 (b) Appendix J is weak in its treatment of historic sites and historic archeology and should be expanded upon.

9 (c) The methodology and procedural requirements for dealing with cultural resources includes more than "evaluation."

10 (d) Page 267, Socio-cultural Use: This should note actual Native American consultation regarding ARPA permit actions, as well as sacred and religious site consultations.

11 (e) Page 267, Management Use: How does the BLM select a particular site for experiments in stabilization, etc., and what legal procedures must be followed prior to a site's being used for experimental or test purposes?

Howard H Chapman

cc:
IAS
WASO (762)

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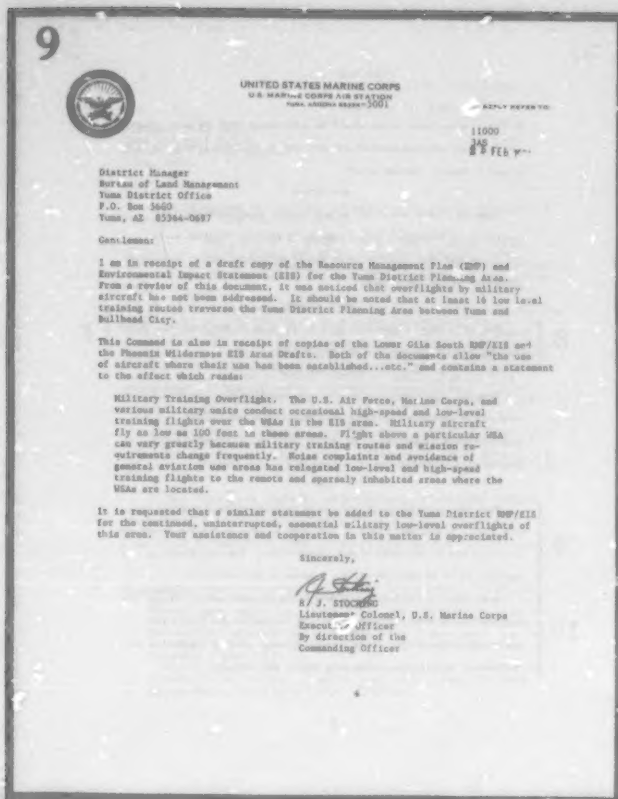

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
U.S. MARINE CORPS AIR STATION
YUMA, ARIZONA 85369-5001

IN REPLY REFER TO:
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District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, AZ 85364-0697

Gentlemen:

I am in receipt of a draft copy of the Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Yuma District Planning Area. From a review of this document, it was noticed that overflights by military aircraft has not been addressed. It should be noted that at least 16 low level training routes traverse the Yuma District Planning Area between Yuma and Bullhead City.

This Command is also in receipt of copies of the Lower Gila South RMP/EIS and the Phoenix Wilderness EIS Area Drafts. Both of the documents allow "the use of aircraft where their use has been established...etc." and contains a statement to the effect which reads:

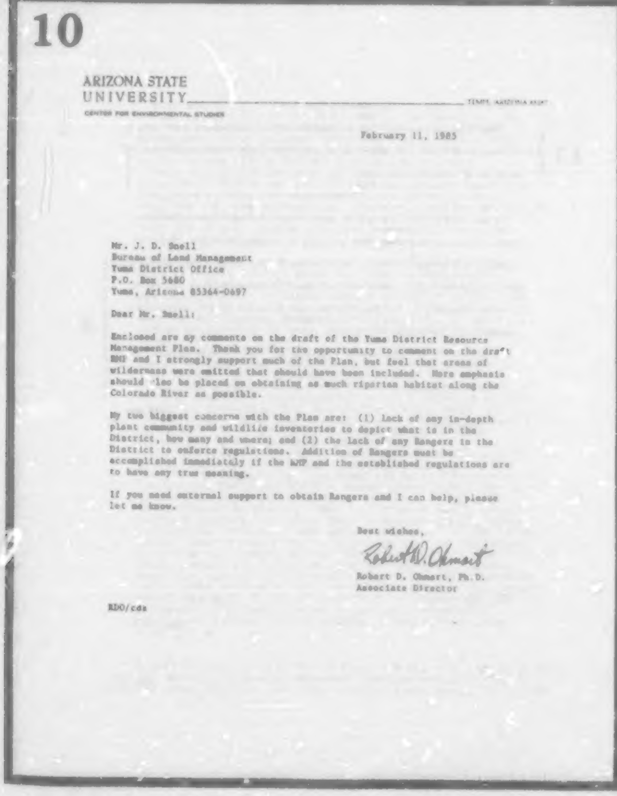
> Military Training Overflight. The U.S. Air Force, Marine Corps, and various military units conduct occasional high-speed and low-level training flights over the WSAs in the EIS area. Military aircraft fly as low as 100 feet in these areas. Flight above a particular WSA can vary greatly because military training routes and mission requirements change frequently. Noise complaints and avoidance of general aviation use areas has relegated low-level and high-speed training flights to the remote and sparsely inhabited areas where the WSAs are located.

It is requested that a similar statement be added to the Yuma District RMP/EIS for the continued, uninterrupted, essential military low-level overflights of this area. Your assistance and cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

R. J. STOCKING
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Marine Corps
Executive Officer
By direction of the
Commanding Officer

10



ARIZONA STATE
UNIVERSITY
TEMPE, ARIZONA 85287
CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

February 11, 1985

Mr. J. D. Snell
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

Dear Mr. Snell:

Enclosed are my comments on the draft of the Yuma District Resource Management Plan. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft RMP and I strongly support much of the Plan, but feel that areas of wilderness were omitted that should have been included. More emphasis should also be placed on obtaining as much riparian habitat along the Colorado River as possible.

My two biggest concerns with the Plan are: (1) lack of any in-depth plant community and wildlife inventories to depict what is in the District, how many and where; and (2) the lack of any Rangers in the District to enforce regulations. Addition of Rangers must be accomplished immediately if the RMP and the established regulations are to have any true meaning.

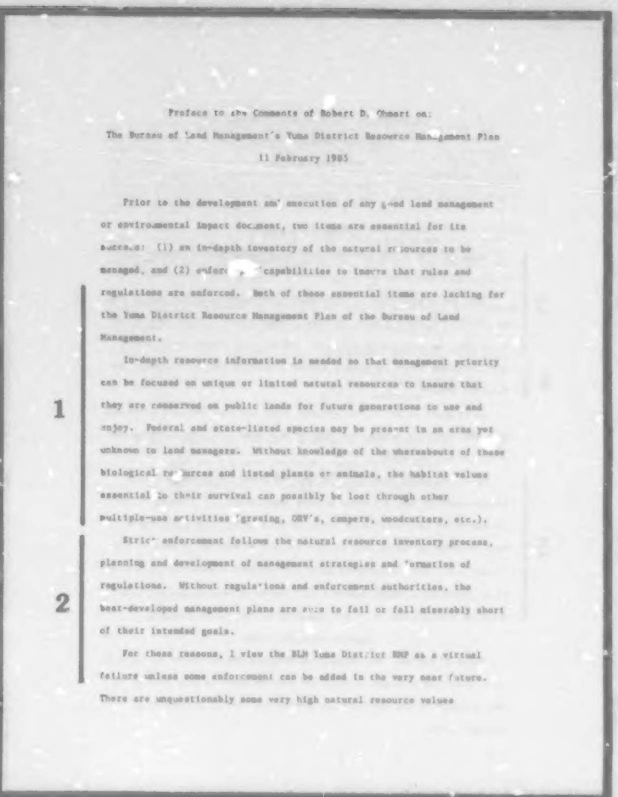
If you need external support to obtain Rangers and I can help, please let me know.

Best wishes,

Robert D. Ohmart

Robert D. Ohmart, Ph.D.
Associate Director

RDO/cds



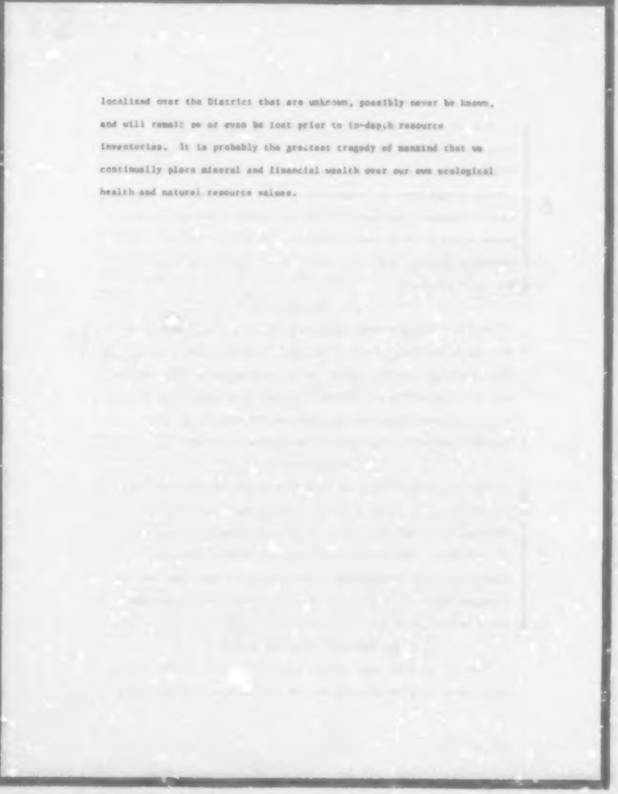
Preface to the Comments of Robert D. Ohmart on:
The Bureau of Land Management's Yuma District Resource Management Plan
11 February 1985

Prior to the development and execution of any good land management or environmental impact document, two items are essential for its success: (1) an in-depth inventory of the natural resources to be managed, and (2) enforcement capabilities to insure that rules and regulations are enforced. Both of these essential items are lacking for the Yuma District Resource Management Plan of the Bureau of Land Management.

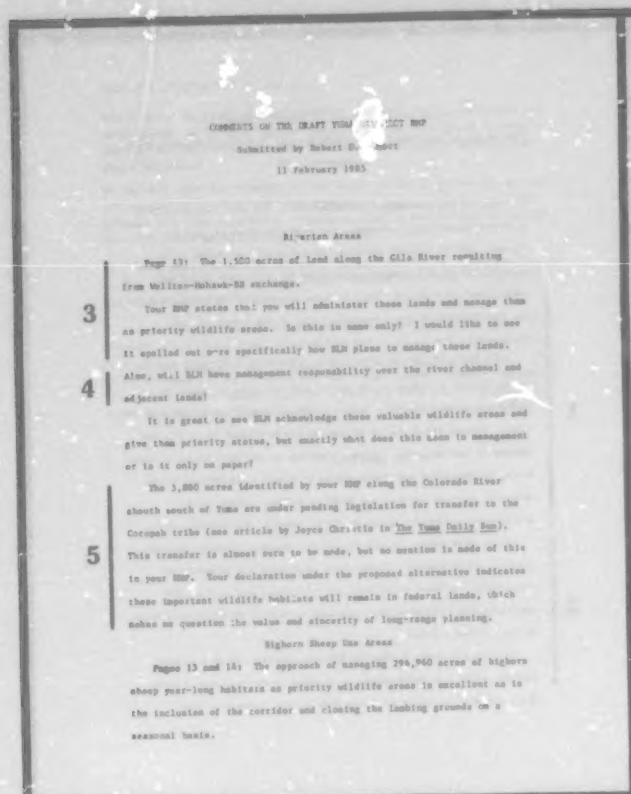
1 In-depth resource information is needed so that management priority can be focused on unique or limited natural resources to insure that they are conserved on public lands for future generations to use and enjoy. Federal and state-listed species may be present in an area yet unknown to land managers. Without knowledge of the whereabouts of these biological resources and listed plants or animals, the habitat values essential to their survival can possibly be lost through other multiple-use activities (grazing, ORV's, campers, woodcutters, etc.).

2 Strict enforcement follows the natural resource inventory process, planning and development of management strategies and formation of regulations. Without regulations and enforcement authorities, the best-developed management plans are sure to fail or fall miserably short of their intended goals.

For these reasons, I view the BLM Yuma District RMP as a virtual failure unless some enforcement can be added in the very near future. There are unquestionably some very high natural resource values



localized over the District that are unknown, possibly never be known, and will remain so or even be lost prior to in-depth resource inventories. It is probably the greatest tragedy of mankind that we continually place mineral and financial wealth over our own ecological health and natural resource values.



COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT YUMA DISTRICT RMP

Submitted by Robert [illegible]

11 February 1985

Riparian Areas

3 **Page 13:** The 1,500 acres of land along the Gila River resulting from Wellton-Mohawk-BR exchange.

Your RMP states that you will administer these lands and manage them as priority wildlife areas. Is this in name only? I would like to see it spelled out more specifically how BLM plans to manage these lands.

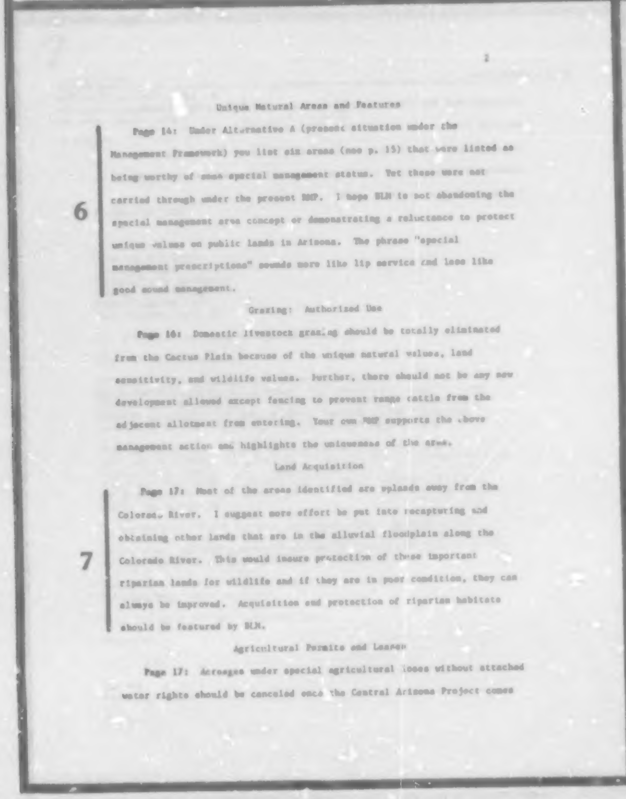
4 Also, will BLM have management responsibility over the river channel and adjacent lands?

It is great to see BLM acknowledge these valuable wildlife areas and give them priority status, but exactly what does this mean in management or is it only on paper?

5 The 3,880 acres identified by your RMP along the Colorado River shouth south of Yuma are under pending legislation for transfer to the Cocopah tribe (see article by Joyce Christie in The Yuma Daily Sun). This transfer is almost sure to be made, but no mention is made of this in your RMP. Your declaration under the proposed alternative indicates these important wildlife habitats will remain in federal lands, which makes me question the value and sincerity of long-range planning.

Bighorn Sheep Use Areas

Pages 13 and 14: The approach of managing 296,960 acres of bighorn sheep year-long habitats as priority wildlife areas is excellent as is the inclusion of the corridor and closing the lambing grounds on a seasonal basis.



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Unique Natural Areas and Features

6 **Page 14:** Under Alternative A (present situation under the Management Framework) you list six areas (see p. 15) that were listed as being worthy of some special management status. Yet these were not carried through under the present RMP. I hope BLM is not abandoning the special management area concept or demonstrating a reluctance to protect unique values on public lands in Arizona. The phrase "special management prescriptions" sounds more like lip service and less like good sound management.

Grazing: Authorized Use

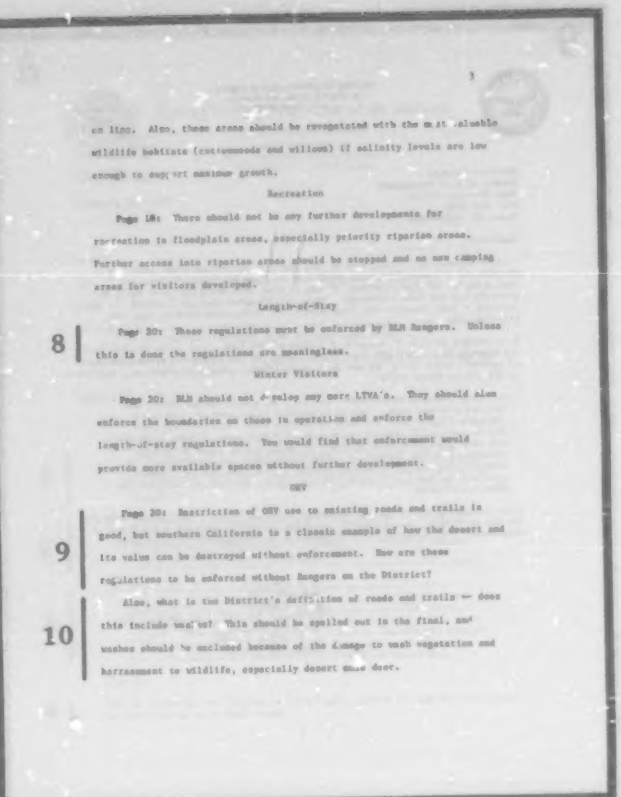
Page 16: Domestic livestock grazing should be totally eliminated from the Cactus Plain because of the unique natural values, land sensitivity, and wildlife values. Further, there should not be any new development allowed except fencing to prevent range cattle from the adjacent allotment from entering. Your own RMP supports the above management action and highlights the uniqueness of the area.

Land Acquisition

7 **Page 17:** Most of the areas identified are uplands away from the Colorado River. I suggest more effort be put into recapturing and obtaining other lands that are in the alluvial floodplain along the Colorado River. This would insure protection of these important riparian lands for wildlife and if they are in poor condition, they can always be improved. Acquisition and protection of riparian habitats should be featured by BLM.

Agricultural Permits and Leases

Page 17: Acreages under special agricultural leases without attached water rights should be canceled once the Central Arizona Project comes



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on line. Also, these areas should be revegetated with the most valuable wildlife habitats (cottonwoods and willows) if salinity levels are low enough to support maximum growth.

Recreation

Page 18: There should not be any further developments for recreation in floodplain areas, especially priority riparian areas. Further access into riparian areas should be stopped and no new camping areas for visitors developed.

Length-of-Stay

8 **Page 20:** These regulations must be enforced by BLM Rangers. Unless this is done the regulations are meaningless.

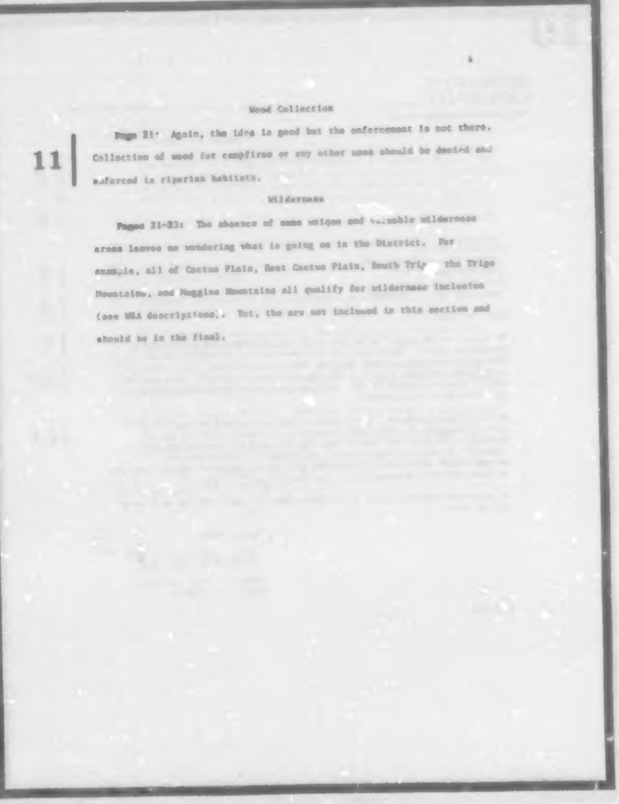
Winter Visitors

Page 20: BLM should not develop any more LTVA's. They should also enforce the boundaries on those in operation and enforce the length-of-stay regulations. You would find that enforcement would provide more available spaces without further development.

ORV

9 **Page 20:** Restriction of ORV use to existing roads and trails is good, but southern California is a classic example of how the desert and its value can be destroyed without enforcement. How are these regulations to be enforced without Rangers on the District?

10 Also, what is the District's definition of roads and trails — does this include washes? This should be spelled out in the final, and washes should be excluded because of the damage to wash vegetation and harrassment to wildlife, especially desert mule deer.



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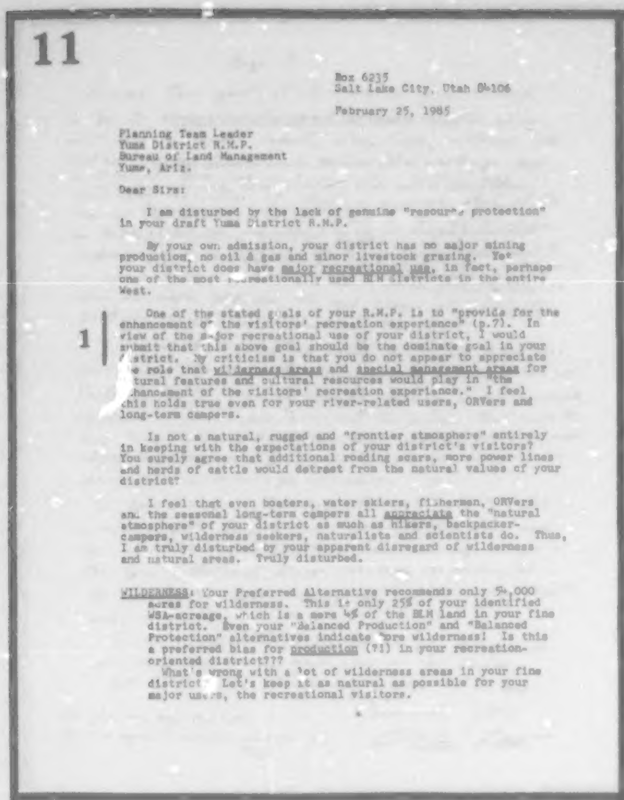
Wood Collection

11 **Page 21:** Again, the idea is good but the enforcement is not there. Collection of wood for campfires or any other uses should be denied and enforced in riparian habitats.

Wilderness

Pages 21-23: The absence of some unique and valuable wilderness areas leaves me wondering what is going on in the District. For example, all of Cactus Plain, East Cactus Plain, South Trigo, the Trigo Mountains, and Muggins Mountains all qualify for wilderness inclusion (see WSA descriptions). Yet, the are not included in this section and should be in the final.

11



Box 6235
Salt Lake City, Utah 84106

February 25, 1985

Planning Team Leader
Yuma District R.M.P.
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma, Ariz.

Dear Sirs:

I am disturbed by the lack of genuine "resource protection" in your draft Yuma District R.M.P.

By your own admission, your district has no major mining production, no oil & gas and minor livestock grazing. Yet your district does have major recreational use, in fact, perhaps one of the most recreationally used BLM districts in the entire West.

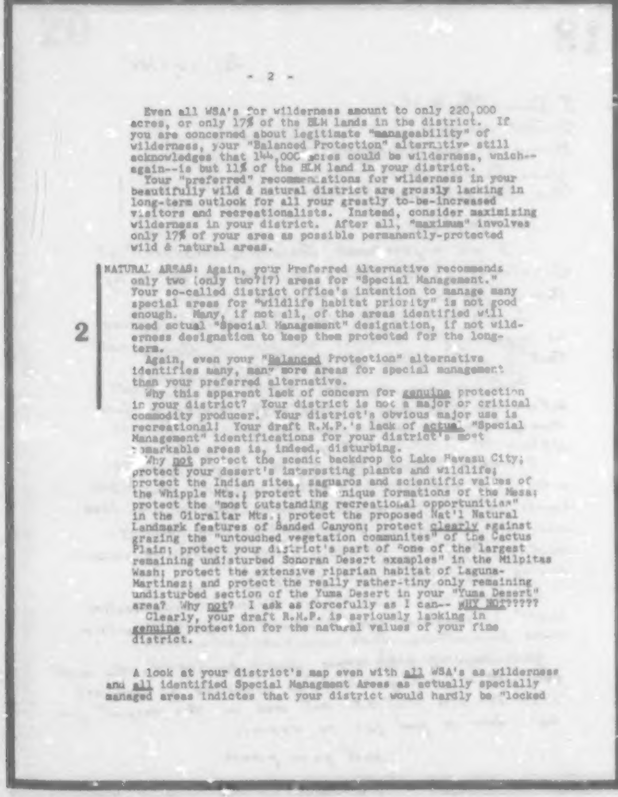
1 One of the stated goals of your R.M.P. is to "provide for the enhancement of the visitors' recreation experience" (p.7). In view of the major recreational use of your district, I would submit that this above goal should be the dominate goal in your district. My criticism is that you do not appear to appreciate the role that wilderness areas and special management areas for natural features and cultural resources would play in "the enhancement of the visitors' recreation experience." I feel this holds true even for your river-related users, ORVers and long-term campers.

Is not a natural, rugged and "frontier atmosphere" entirely in keeping with the expectations of your district's visitors? You surely agree that additional roading scars, more power lines and herds of cattle would detract from the natural values of your district?

I feel that even boaters, water skiers, fishermen, ORVers and the seasonal long-term campers all appreciate the "natural atmosphere" of your district as much as hikers, backpacker-campers, wilderness seekers, naturalists and scientists do. Thus, I am truly disturbed by your apparent disregard of wilderness and natural areas. Truly disturbed.

WILDERNESS: Your Preferred Alternative recommends only 54,000 acres for wilderness. This is only 25% of your identified WSA-acreage, which is a mere 4% of the BLM land in your fine district. Even your "Balanced Production" and "Balanced Protection" alternatives indicate more wilderness! Is this a preferred bias for production (?!) in your recreation-oriented district???

What's wrong with a lot of wilderness areas in your fine district? Let's keep it as natural as possible for your major users, the recreational visitors.



- 2 -

Even all WSA's for wilderness amount to only 220,000 acres, or only 17% of the BLM lands in the district. If you are concerned about legitimate "manageability" of wilderness, your "Balanced Protection" alternative still acknowledges that 144,000 acres could be wilderness, which--again--is but 11% of the BLM land in your district.

Your "preferred" recommendations for wilderness in your beautifully wild & natural district are grossly lacking in long-term outlook for all your greatly to-be-increased visitors and recreationalists. Instead, consider maximizing wilderness in your district. After all, "maximum" involves only 17% of your area as possible permanently-protected wild & natural areas.

2 NATURAL AREAS: Again, your Preferred Alternative recommends only two (only two?!?) areas for "Special Management." Your so-called district office's intention to manage many special areas for "wildlife habitat priority" is not good enough. Many, if not all, of the areas identified will need actual "Special Management" designation, if not wilderness designation to keep them protected for the long-term.

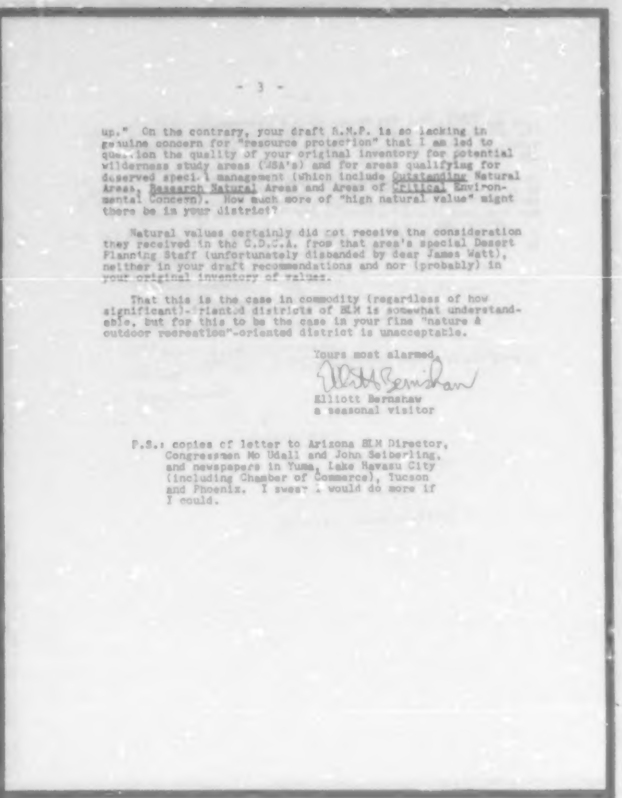
Again, even your "Balanced Protection" alternative identifies many, many more areas for special management than your preferred alternative.

Why this apparent lack of concern for genuine protection in your district? Your district is not a major or critical commodity producer. Your district's obvious major use is recreational! Your draft R.M.P.'s lack of actual "Special Management" identifications for your district's most remarkable areas is, indeed, disturbing.

Why not protect the scenic backdrop to Lake Havasu City; protect your desert's interesting plants and wildlife; protect the Indian sites, saguaros and scientific values of the Whipple Mts.; protect the unique formations of the Mesa; protect the "most outstanding recreational opportunities" in the Gibraltar Mts.; protect the proposed Nat'l Natural Landmark features of Banded Canyon; protect clearly against grazing the "untouched vegetation communites" of the Cactus Plain; protect your district's part of "one of the largest remaining undisturbed Sonoran Desert examples" in the Milpitas Wash; protect the extensive riparian habitat of Laguna-Martinez; and protect the really rather-tiny only remaining undisturbed section of the Yuma Desert in your "Yuma Desert" area? Why not? I ask as forcefully as I can-- WHY NOT?????

Clearly, your draft R.M.P. is seriously lacking in genuine protection for the natural values of your fine district.

A look at your district's map even with all WSA's as wilderness and all identified Special Managment Areas as actually specially managed areas indictes that your district would hardly be "locked



- 3 -

up." On the contrary, your draft R.M.P. is so lacking in genuine concern for "resource protection" that I am led to question the quality of your original inventory for potential wilderness study areas (WSA's) and for areas qualifying for deserved special management (which include Outstanding Natural Areas, Research Natural Areas and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern). How much more of "high natural value" might there be in your district?

Natural values certainly did not receive the consideration they received in the C.D.C.A. from that area's special Desert Planning Staff (unfortunately disbanded by dear James Watt), neither in your draft recommendations and nor (probably) in your original inventory of values.

That this is the case in commodity (regardless of how significant)-oriented districts of BLM is somewhat understandable, but for this to be the case in your fine "nature & outdoor recreation"-oriented district is unacceptable.

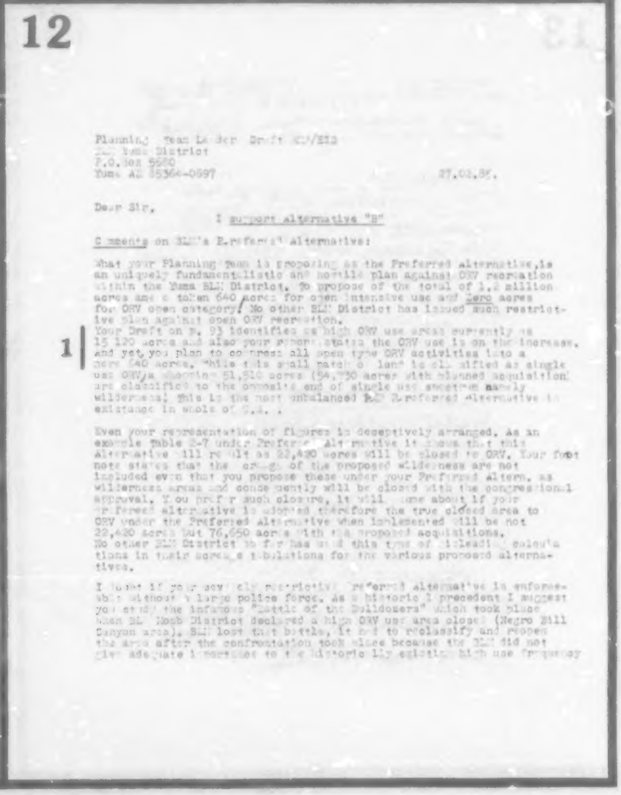
Yours most alarmed,

Elliott Bernshaw

Elliott Bernshaw
a seasonal visitor

P.S.: copies of letter to Arizona BLM Director,
Congressmen Mo Udall and John Seiberling,
and newspapers in Yuma, Lake Havasu City
(including Chamber of Commerce), Tucson
and Phoenix. I swear I would do more if
I could.

12



Planning Team Leader Draft RMP/EIS
BLM Yuma District
P.O.Box 5680
Yuma AZ 85364-0697 27.02.85.

Dear Sir,

I support alternative "B"

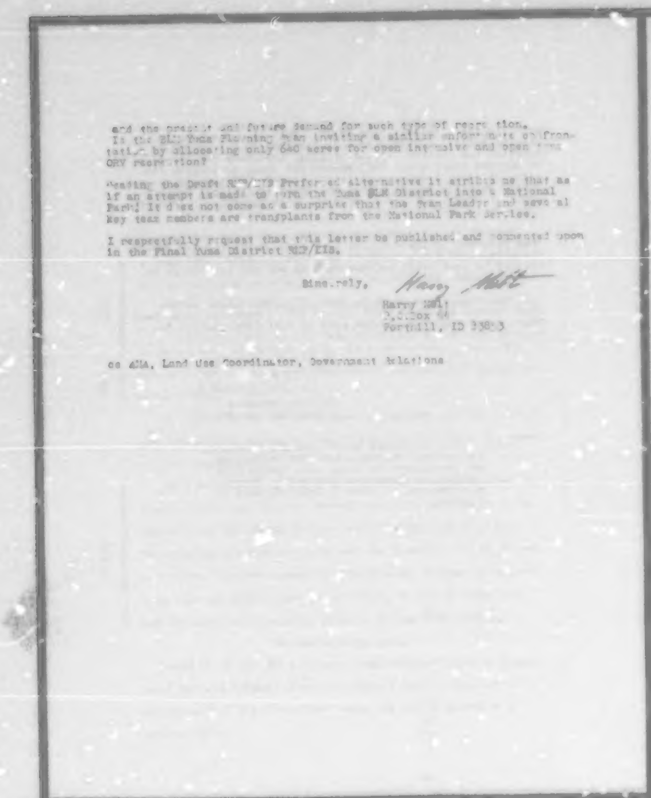
Comments on BLM's Preferred Alternative:

What your Planning Team is proposing as the Preferred alternative,is an uniquely fundamentalistic and hostile plan against ORV recreation within the Yuma BLM District. To propose of the total of 1.2 million acres and a token 640 acres for open intensive use and Zero acres for ORV open category! No other BLM District has issued such restrictive plan against open ORV recreation.

1 Your Draft on p. 93 identifies as high ORV use areas currently as 15 120 acres and also your report states the ORV use is on the increase, and yet you plan to compress all open type ORV activities into a mere 640 acres. While this small patch of land is classified as single use ORV,a whooping 51,510 acres (54,730 acres with planned acquisition) are classified to the opposite end of single use spectrum namely wilderness! This is the most unbalanced BLM Preferred Alternative in existance in whole of U.S. .

Even your representation of figures is deceptively arranged. As an example Table 2-7 under Preferred Alternative it shows that this Alternative will result as 22,420 acres will be closed to ORV. Your foot note states that the acreage of the proposed wilderness are not included even that you propose these under your Preferred altern. as wilderness areas and consequently will be closed with the congressional approval. If you prefer such closure, it will come about if your Preferred alternative is adopted therefore the true closed area to ORV under the Preferred Alternative when implemented will be not 22,420 acres but 76,650 acres with the proposed acquisitions.
No other BLM District so far has used this type of misleading calculations in their acreage tabulations for the various proposed alternatives.

I doubt if your severely restrictive Preferred alternative is enforceable without a large police force. As a historic precedent I suggest you study the infamous "Battle of the Bulldozers" which took place when BLM Moab District declared a high ORV use area closed (Negro Bill Canyon area). BLM lost that battle, it had to reclassify and reopen the area after the confrontation took place because the BLM did not give adequate importance to the historically existing high use frequency



and the present and future demand for such type of recreation. Is the BLM Yuma Planning Team inviting a similar enforcement confrontation by allocating only 640 acres for open intensive and open [illegible] ORV recreation?

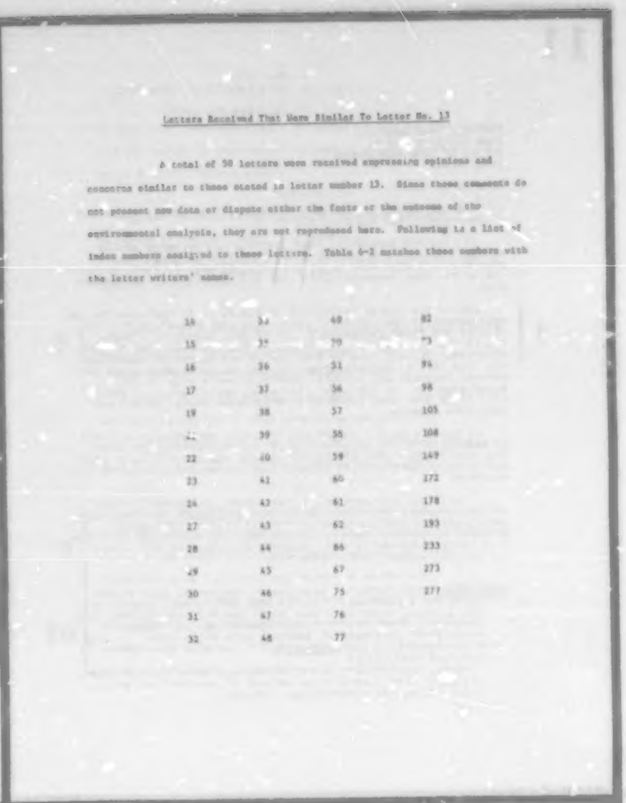
Reading the Draft RMP/EIS Preferred alternative it strikes me that as if an attempt is made to turn the Yuma BLM District into a National Park! It does not come as a surprise that the Team Leader and several key team members are transplants from the National Park Service.

I respectfully request that this letter be published and commented upon in the Final Yuma District RMP/EIS.

Sincerely, Harry [illegible]

Harry [illegible]
P.O.Box [illegible]
Porthill, ID 83853

cc AMA, Land Use Coordinator, Government Relations



Letters Received That Were Similar To Letter No. 13

A total of 58 letters were received expressing opinions and concerns similar to those stated in letter number 13. Since these comments do not present new data or dispute either the facts or the outcome of the environmental analysis, they are not reproduced here. Following is a list of index numbers assigned to these letters. Table 6-2 matches these numbers with the letter writers' names.

14	34	49	82
15	35	50	93
16	36	51	94
17	37	56	98
19	38	57	105
21	39	58	108
22	40	59	149
23	41	60	172
24	42	61	178
27	43	62	193
28	44	66	233
29	45	67	273
30	46	75	277
31	47	76	
32	48	77	

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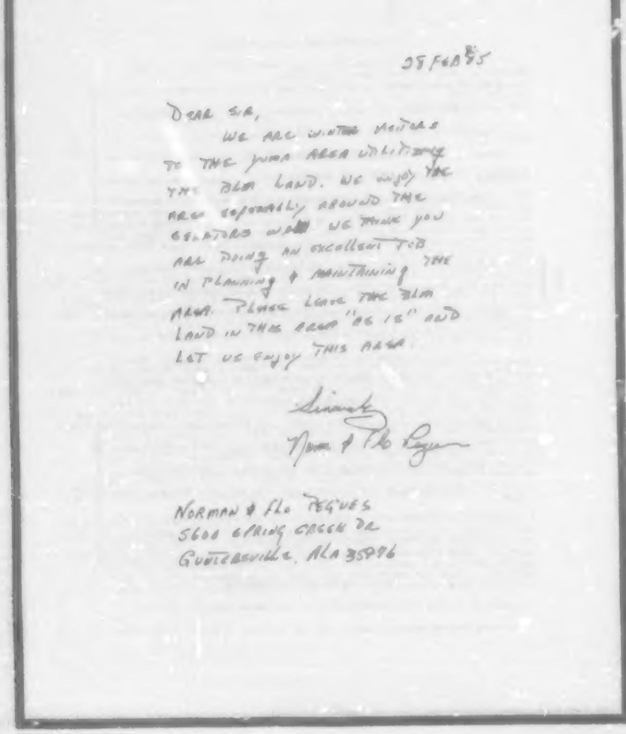


28 FEB 85

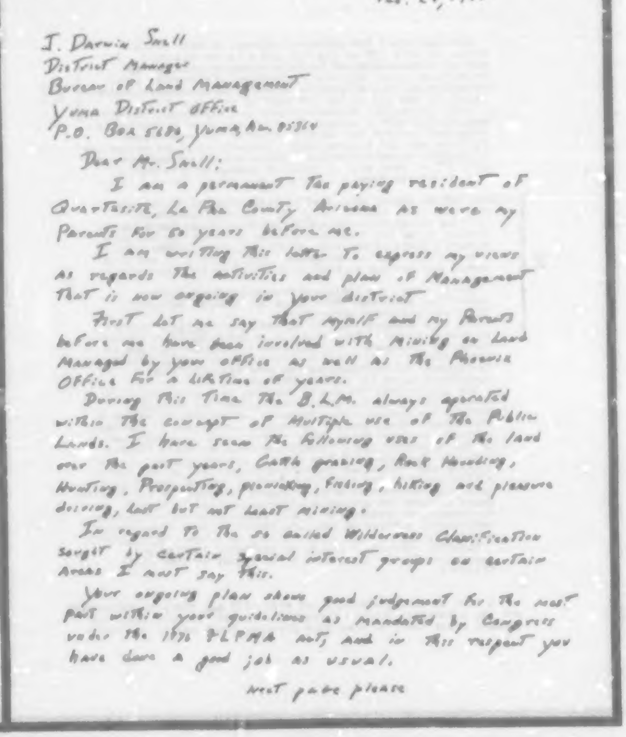
DEAR SIR,

WE ARE WINTER VISITORS TO THE YUMA AREA UTILIZING THE BLM LAND. WE ENJOY THE AREA ESPECIALLY AROUND THE SENATORS WASH. WE THINK YOU ARE DOING AN EXCELLENT JOB IN PLANNING & MAINTAINING THE AREA. PLEASE LEAVE THE BLM LAND IN THIS AREA "AS IS" AND LET US ENJOY THIS AREA.

Sincerely
Norm & Flo Pegues

NORMAN & FLO PEGUES
5600 SPRING CREEK DR
GUNTERSVILLE, ALA 35976

18



Feb. 28, 1985

J. Darwin Snell
District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P.O. Box 5680, Yuma, Az. 85364

Dear Mr. Snell:

I am a permanent Tax paying resident of Quartzsite, La Paz County Arizona as were my Parents for 60 years before me.

I am writing This letter To express my views as regards The activities and plan of Management That is now ongoing in your district

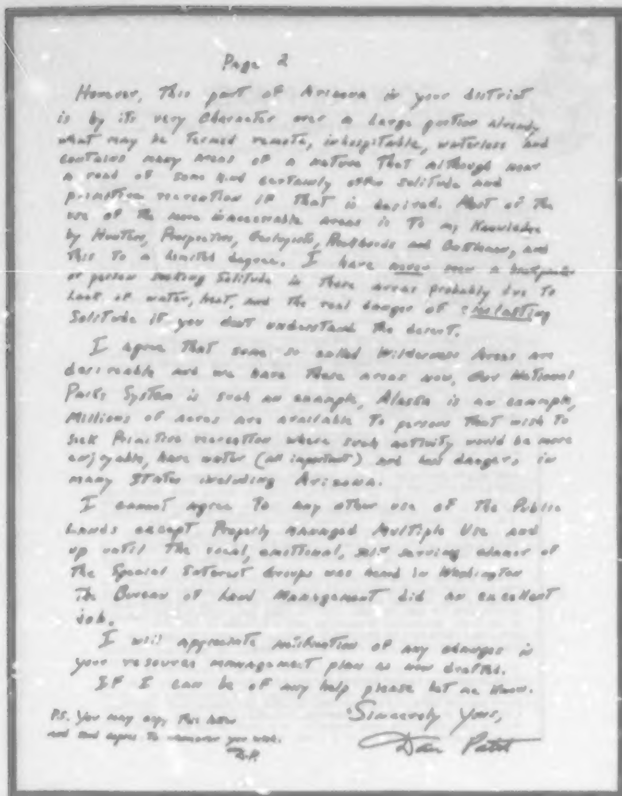
First let me say that myself and my Parents before me have been involved with Mining on Land Managed by your office as well as The Phoenix Office for a lifetime of years.

During This Time The B.L.M. always operated within The concept of Multiple use of The Public Lands. I have seen the following uses of the land over the past years, Cattle grazing, Rock Hounding, Hunting, Prospecting, picnicking, fishing, hiking and pleasure driving, last but not least mining.

In regard To The so called Wilderness Classification sought by certain special interest groups on certain Areas I must say This.

Your ongoing plan shows good judgement for the most part within your guidelines as mandated by Congress under the 1976 FLPMA act, and in This respect you have done a good job as usual.

next page please



Page 2

However, this part of Arizona in your district is by its very character over a large portion already what may be termed remote, inhospitable, waterless and contains many areas of a nature that although near a road of some kind certainly offer solitude and primitive recreation if that is desired. Most of the use of the more inaccessable areas is to my knowledge by Hunters, Prospectors, Geologists, Rockhounds and Botanists, and this to a limited degree. I have never seen a backpacker or person seeking solitude in these areas probably due to lack of water, heat, and the real danger of isolating solitude if you dont understand the desert.

I agree that some so called Wilderness Areas are desireable and we have these areas now, our National Parks System is such an example, Alaska is an example, Millions of acres are available to persons that wish to seek Primitive recreation where such activity would be more enjoyable, have water (all important) and less dangers, in many states including Arizona.

I cannot agree to any other use of the Public Lands except Properly managed Multiple Use and up until the vocal, emotional, self serving element of the Special Interest Groups was heard in Washington The Bureau of Land Management did an excellent job.

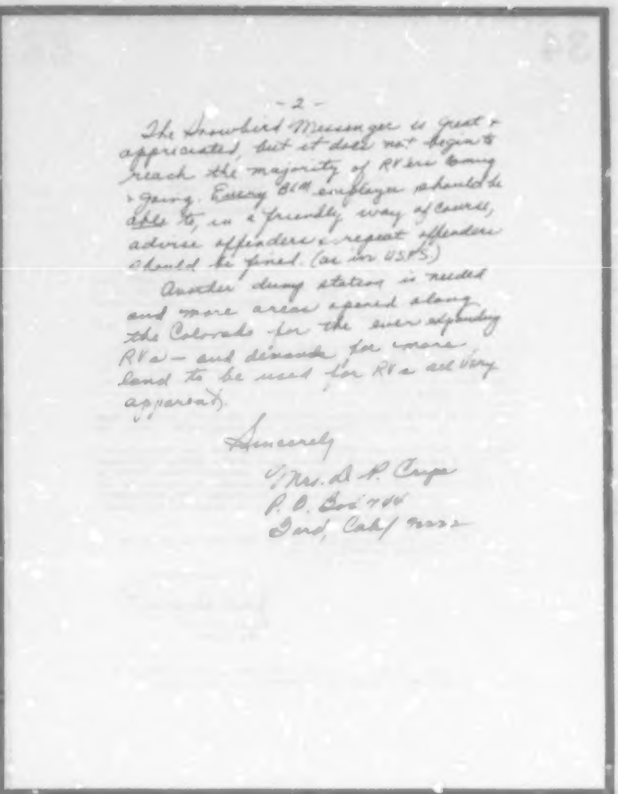
I will appreciate notification of any changes in your resource management plan as now drafted.

If I can be of any help please let me know.

Sincerely Yours,

Dan Patat

P.S. You may copy this letter and send copies to whomever you wish.
D.P.



- 2 -

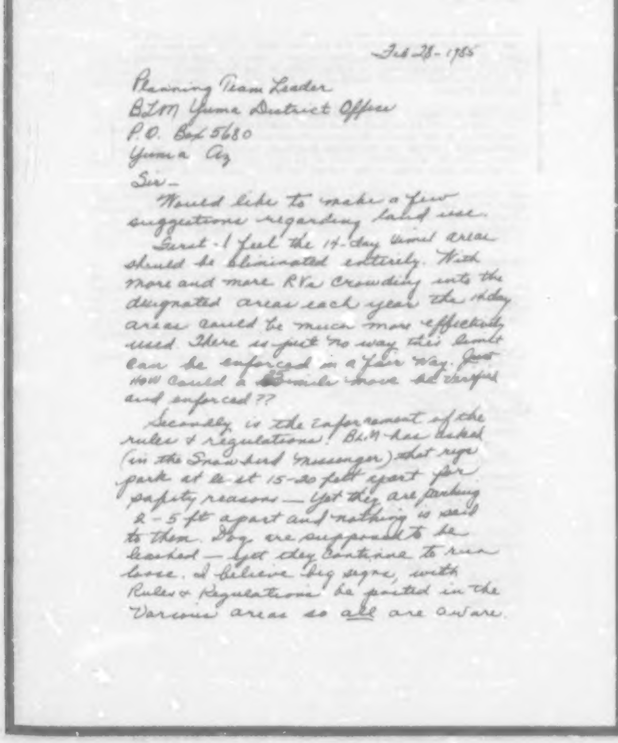
The Snowbird Messenger is great & appreciated, but it does not begin to reach the majority of RVers coming & going. Every BLM employee should be able to, in a friendly way of course, advise offenders & repeat offenders should be fined. (as in USFS)

Another dump station is needed and more areas opened along the Colorado for the ever expanding RVs — and demands for more land to be used for RVs all very apparent.

Sincerely

Mrs. D. P. Cope
P.O. Box 744
Bard, Calif 92222

20



Feb-28-1985

Planning Team Leader
BLM Yuma District Office
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma Az

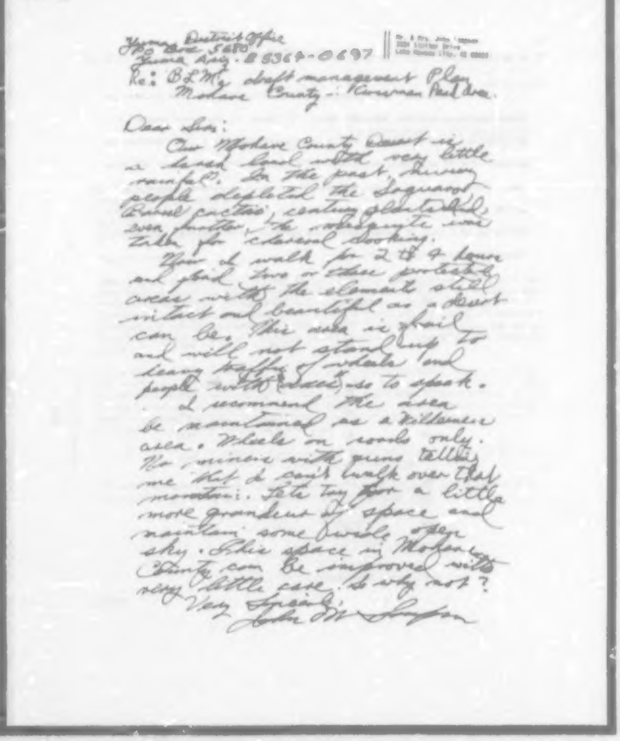
Sir—

Would like to make a few suggestions regarding land use.

First - I feel the 14-day limit areas should be eliminated entirely. With more and more RVs crowding into the designated areas each year the 14day areas could be much more effectively used. There is just no way this limit can be enforced in a fair way. Just how could a 25 mile move be verified and enforced??

Secondly is the enforcement of the rules & regulations! BLM has asked (in the Snowbird Messenger) that rigs park at least 15-20 feet apart for safety reasons — yet they are parking 2-5 ft apart and nothing is said to them. Dogs are supposed to be leashed — yet they continue to run loose. I believe big signs, with Rules & Regulations be posted in the various areas so all are aware.

26



Yuma District Office
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma Ariz. 85364-0697

Re: BLM's draft management Plan
Mohave County - Kingman Res. Area.

Dear Sirs:

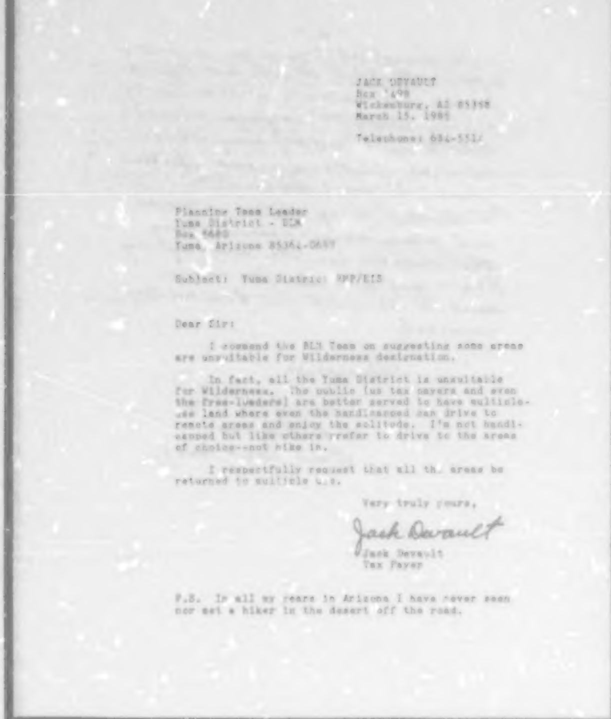
Our Mohave County desert is a harsh land with very little rainfall. In the past, thieving people depleted the Saguaro Barrel cactus, century plants and even further the mesquite was taken for charcoal cooking.

Now I walk for 2 & 4 hours and find two or three protected areas with the elements still intact and beautiful as a desert can be. This area is frail and will not stand up to heavy traffic of wheels and people with [illegible], so to speak.

I recommend the area be maintained as a Wilderness area. Wheels on roads only. No miners with guns telling me that I can't walk over that mountain. Lets try for a little more grandeur of space and maintain some lovely open sky. This space in Mohave County can be improved with very little care. So why not?

Very Sincerely,
John M. Simpson

34



JACK DEVAULT
Box 1498
Wickenburg, AZ 85358
March 15, 1985

Telephone: 684-5517

Planning Team Leader
Yuma District - BLM
Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0689

Subject: Yuma District RMP/EIS

Dear Sir:

I commend the BLM Team on suggesting some areas are unsuitable for Wilderness designation.

In fact, all the Yuma District is unsuitable for Wilderness. The public (us tax payers and even the free-loaders) are better served to have multiple-use land where even the handicapped can drive to remote areas and enjoy the solitude. I'm not handicapped but like others prefer to drive to the areas of choice--not hike in.

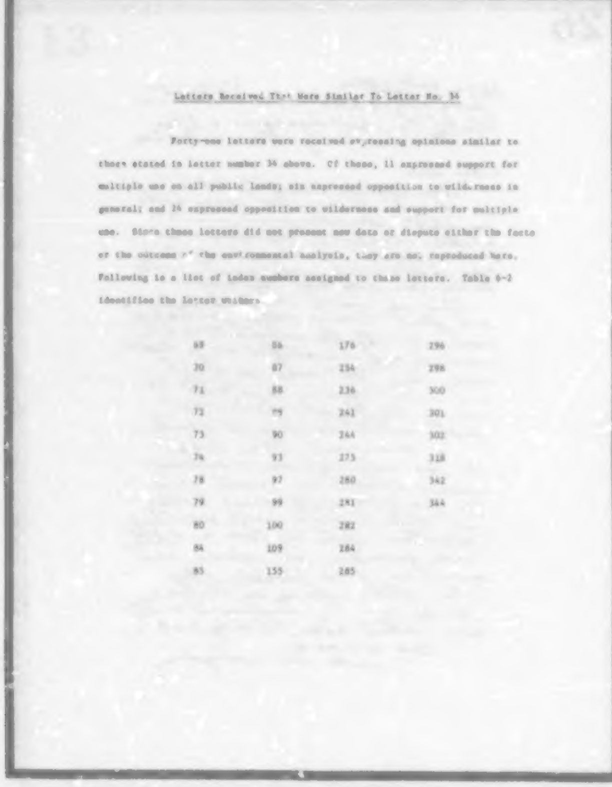
I respectfully request that all the areas be returned to multiple use.

Very truly yours,

Jack Devault

Jack Devault
Tax Payer

P.S. In all my years in Arizona I have never seen nor met a hiker in the desert off the road.



Letters Received That Were Similar To Letter No. 34

Forty-one letters were received expressing opinions similar to those stated in letter number 34 above. Of these, 11 expressed support for multiple use on all public lands; six expressed opposition to wilderness in general; and 24 expressed opposition to wilderness and support for multiple use. Since these letters did not present new data or dispute either the facts or the outcome of the environmental analysis, they are not reproduced here. Following is a list of index numbers assigned to these letters. Table 6-2 identifies the letter writers.

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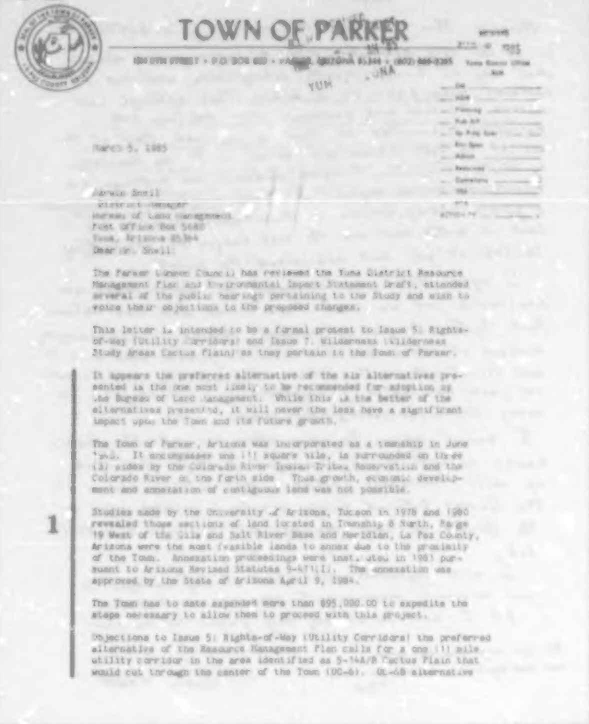


TOWN OF PARKER
[illegible] STREET • P.O. BOX [illegible] • PARKER, ARIZONA 85344 • (602) [illegible]

RECEIVED
Yuma District Office
BLM

March 5, 1985

Darwin Snell
District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Post Office Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364
Dear Mr. Snell:

The Parker Common Council has reviewed the Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement Draft, attended several of the public hearings pertaining to the Study and wish to voice their objections to the proposed changes.

This letter is intended to be a formal protest to Issue 5: Rights-of-Way (Utility Corridors) and Issue 7: Wilderness (Wilderness Study Areas Cactus Plain) as they pertain to the Town of Parker.

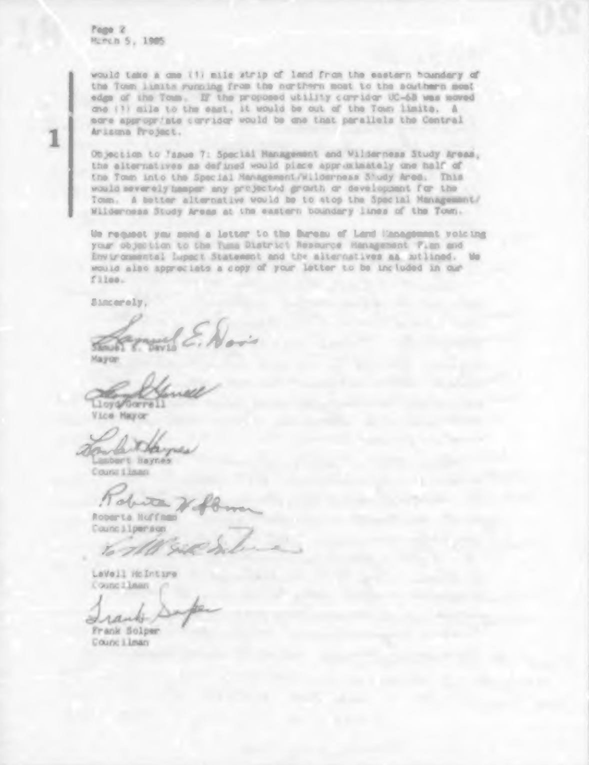
1 It appears the preferred alternative of the six alternatives presented is the one most likely to be recommended for adoption by the Bureau of Land Management. While this is the better of the alternatives presented, it will never the less have a significant impact upon the Town and its future growth.

The Town of Parker, Arizona was incorporated as a township in June 1948. It encompasses one (1) square mile, is surrounded on three (3) sides by the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation and the Colorado River on the forth side. Thus growth, economic development and annexation of contiguous land was not possible.

Studies made by the University of Arizona, Tucson in 1978 and 1980 revealed those sections of land located in Township 8 North, Range 19 West of the Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, La Paz County, Arizona were the most feasible lands to annex due to the proximity of the Town. Annexation proceedings were instituted in 1981 pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes 9-471(I). The annexation was approved by the State of Arizona April 9, 1984.

The Town has to date expended more than $95,000.00 to expedite the steps necessary to allow them to proceed with this project.

Objections to Issue 5: Rights-of-Way (Utility Corridors) the preferred alternative of the Resource Management Plan calls for a one (1) mile utility corridor in the area identified as 5-14A/B Cactus Plain that would cut through the center of the Town (UC-6). UC-6B alternative



Page 2
March 5, 1985

1 would take a one (1) mile strip of land from the eastern boundary of the Town limits running from the northern most to the southern most edge of the Town. If the proposed utility corridor UC-6B was moved one (1) mile to the east, it would be out of the Town limits. A more appropriate corridor would be one that parallels the Central Arizona Project.

Objection to Issue 7: Special Management and Wilderness Study Areas, the alternatives as defined would place approximately one half of the Town into the Special Management/Wilderness Study Area. This would severely hamper any projected growth or development for the Town. A better alternative would be to stop the Special Management/Wilderness Study Areas at the eastern boundary lines of the Town.

We request you send a letter to the Bureau of Land Management voicing your objection to the Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement and the alternatives as outlined. We would also appreciate a copy of your letter to be included in our files.

Sincerely,

Samuel E. Davis
Samuel E. Davis
Mayor

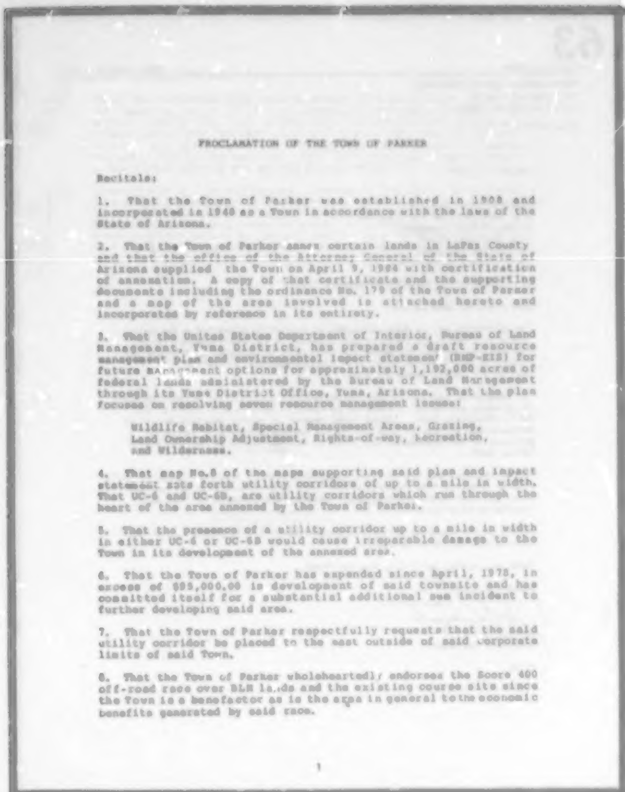
Lloyd Gorrell
Vice Mayor

Lambert Haynes
Councilman

Roberta Huffman
Roberta Huffman
Councilperson

LaVell McIntire
Councilman

Frank Solper
Frank Solper
Councilman



PROCLAMATION OF THE TOWN OF PARKER

Recitals:

1. That the Town of Parker was established in 1908 and incorporated in 1948 as a Town in accordance with the laws of the State of Arizona.

2. That the Town of Parker annex certain lands in LaPaz County and that the office of the Attorney General of the State of Arizona supplied the Town on April 9, 1984 with certification of annexation. A copy of that certificate and the supporting documents including the ordinance No. 179 of the Town of Parker and a map of the area involved is attached hereto and incorporated by reference in its entirety.

3. That the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District, has prepared a draft resource management plan and environmental impact statement (RMP-EIS) for future management options for approximately 1,192,000 acres of federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management through its Yuma District Office, Yuma, Arizona. That the plan focuses on resolving seven resource management issues:

Wildlife Habitat, Special Management Areas, Grazing,
Land Ownership Adjustment, Rights-of-way, Recreation,
and Wilderness.

4. That map No.8 of the maps supporting said plan and impact statement sets forth utility corridors of up to a mile in width. That UC-6 and UC-6B, are utility corridors which run through the heart of the area annexed by the Town of Parker.

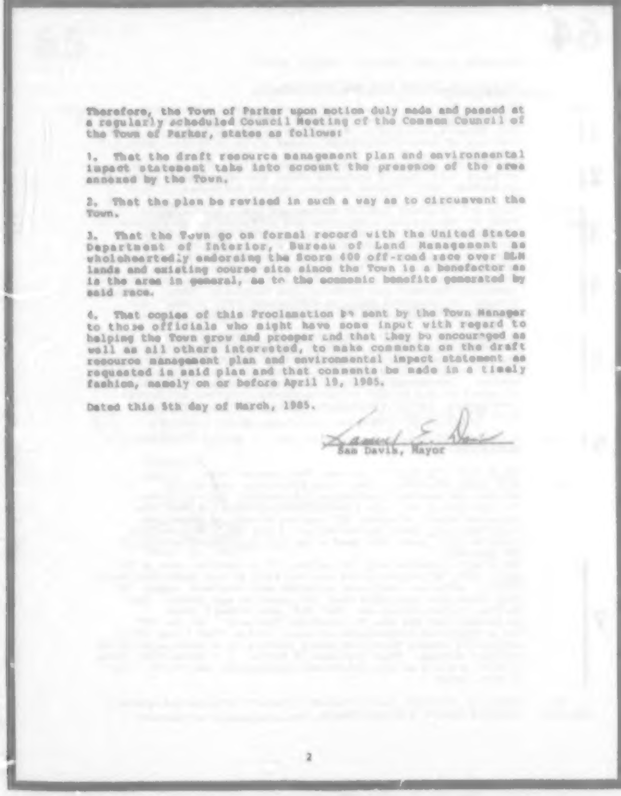
5. That the presence of a utility corridor up to a mile in width in either UC-6 or UC-6B would cause irreparable damage to the Town in its development of the annexed area.

6. That the Town of Parker has expended since April, 1978, in excess of $95,000.00 in development of said townsite and has committed itself for a substantial additional sum incident to further developing said area.

7. That the Town of Parker respectfully requests that the said utility corridor be placed to the east outside of said corporate limits of said Town.

8. That the Town of Parker wholeheartedly endorses the Score 400 off-road race over BLM lands and the existing course site since the Town is a benefactor as is the area in general to the economic benefits generated by said race.

1



Therefore, the Town of Parker upon motion duly made and passed at a regularly scheduled Council Meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Parker, states as follows:

1. That the draft resource management plan and environmental impact statement take into account the presence of the area annexed by the Town.

2. That the plan be revised in such a way as to circumvent the Town.

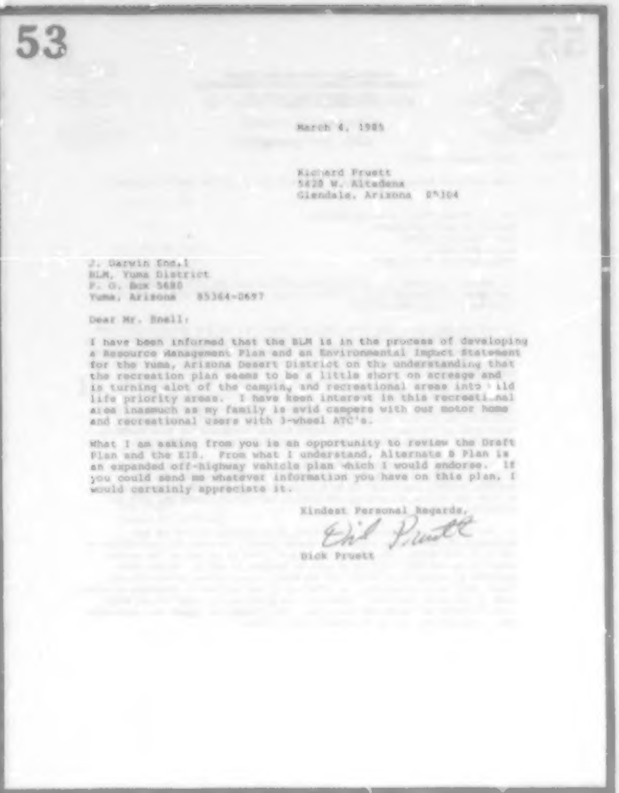
3. That the Town go on formal record with the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management as wholeheartedly endorsing the Score 400 off-road race over BLM lands and existing course site since the Town is a benefactor as is the area in general, as to the economic benefits generated by said race.

4. That copies of this Proclamation be sent by the Town Manager to those officials who might have some input with regard to helping the Town grow and prosper and that they be encouraged as well as all others interested, to make comments on the draft resource management plan and environmental impact statement as requested in said plan and that comments be made in a timely fashion, namely on or before April 19, 1985.

Dated this 5th day of March, 1985.

Samuel E. Davis
Sam Davis, Mayor

2



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March 4, 1985

Richard Pruett
5420 W. Altadena
Glendale, Arizona 85304

J. Darwin Snell
BLM, Yuma District
P. O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

Dear Mr. Snell:

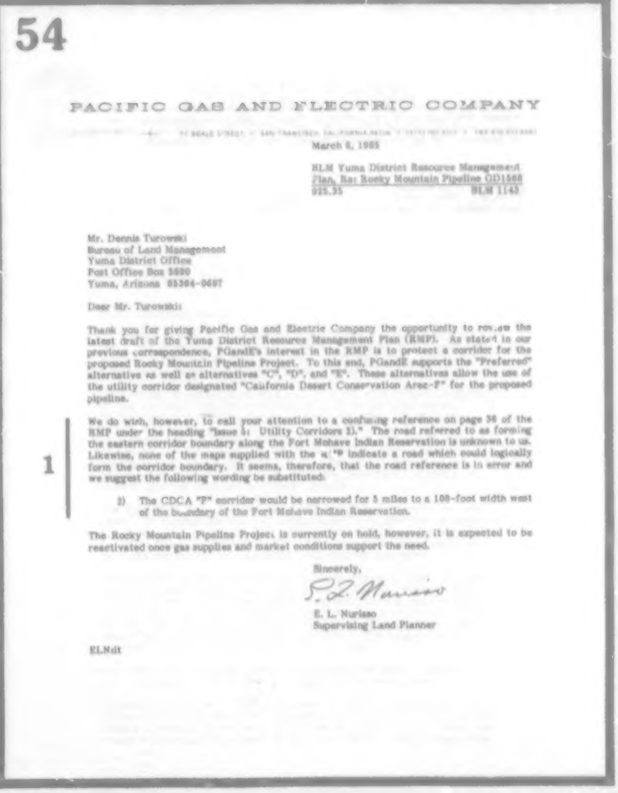
I have been informed that the BLM is in the process of developing a Resource Management Plan and an Environmental Impact Statement for the Yuma, Arizona Desert District on the understanding that the recreation plan seems to be a little short on acreage and is turning alot of the camping and recreational areas into wild life priority areas. I have keen interest in this recreational area inasmuch as my family is avid campers with our motor home and recreational users with 3-wheel ATC's.

What I am asking from you is an opportunity to review the Draft Plan and the EIS. From what I understand, Alternate B Plan is an expanded off-highway vehicle plan which I would endorse. If you could send me whatever information you have on this plan, I would certainly appreciate it.

Kindest Personal Regards,

Dick Pruett

Dick Pruett



54

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

March 6, 1985

BLM Yuma District Resource Management Plan, Re: Rocky Mountain Pipeline GD1568
025.35 BLM 1143

Mr. Dennis Turowski
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
Post Office Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

Dear Mr. Turowski:

Thank you for giving Pacific Gas and Electric Company the opportunity to review the latest draft of the Yuma District Resource Management Plan (RMP). As stated in our previous correspondence, PGandE's interest in the RMP is to protect a corridor for the proposed Rocky Mountain Pipeline Project. To this end, PGandE supports the "Preferred" alternative as well as alternatives "C", "D", and "E". These alternatives allow the use of the utility corridor designated "California Desert Conservation Area-F" for the proposed pipeline.

1 We do wish, however, to call your attention to a confusing reference on page 36 of the RMP under the heading "Issue 5: Utility Corridors 3)." The road referred to as forming the eastern corridor boundary along the Fort Mohave Indian Reservation is unknown to us. Likewise, none of the maps supplied with the RMP indicate a road which could logically form the corridor boundary. It seems, therefore, that the road reference is in error and we suggest the following wording be substituted:

3) The CDCA "F" corridor would be narrowed for 5 miles to a 100-foot width west of the boundary of the Fort Mohave Indian Reservation.

The Rocky Mountain Pipeline Project is currently on hold, however, it is expected to be reactivated once gas supplies and market conditions support the need.

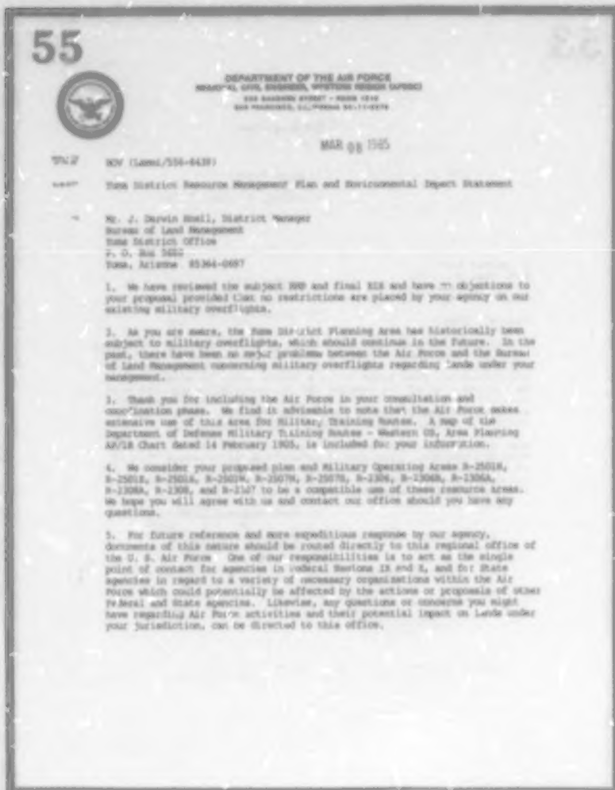
Sincerely,

E. L. Nuriso

E. L. Nurisso
Supervising Land Planner

ELN:dt

55



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
REGIONAL CIVIL ENGINEER, WESTERN REGION (AFRCE)
[illegible]
[illegible]

MAR 08 1985

ROV (Lammi/556-6439)

Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Mr. J. Darwin Snell, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P. O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

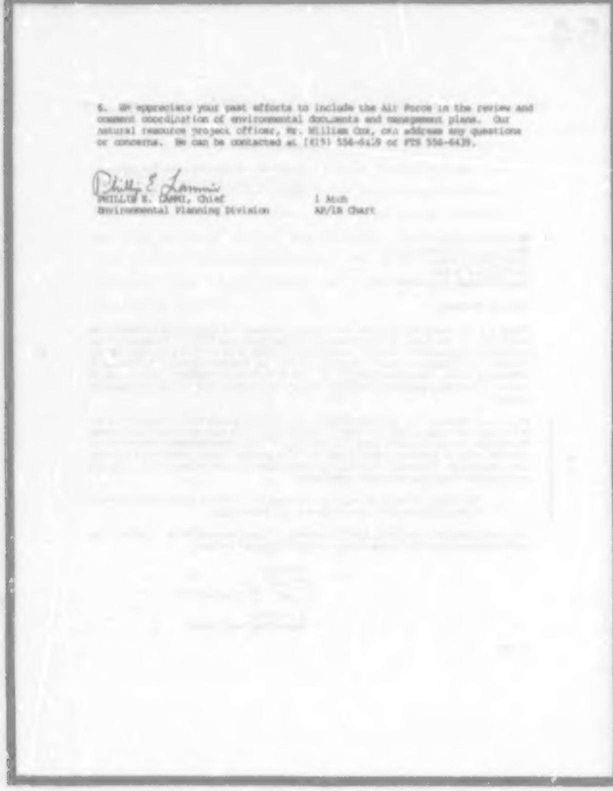
1. We have reviewed the subject RMP and final EIS and have no objections to your proposal provided that no restrictions are placed by your agency on our existing military overflights.

2. As you are aware, the Yuma District Planning Area has historically been subject to military overflights, which should continue in the future. In the past, there have been no major problems between the Air Force and the Bureau of Land Management concerning military overflights regarding lands under your management.

3. Thank you for including the Air Force in your consultation and coordination phase. We find it advisable to note that the Air Force makes extensive use of this area for Military Training Routes. A map of the Department of Defense Military Training Routes - Western US, Area Planning AP/1B Chart dated 14 February 1985, is included for your information.

4. We consider your proposed plan and Military Operating Areas R-2501N, R-2501E, R-2501S, R-2501W, R-2507N, R-2507S, R-2304, R-2306B, R-2306A, R-2308A, R-2308, and R-2307 to be a compatible use of these resource areas. We hope you will agree with us and contact our office should you have any questions.

5. For future reference and more expeditious response by our agency, documents of this nature should be routed directly to this regional office of the U. S. Air Force. One of our responsibilities is to act as the single point of contact for agencies in Federal Regions IX and X, and for State agencies in regard to a variety of necessary organizations within the Air Force which could potentially be affected by the actions or proposals of other Federal and State agencies. Likewise, any questions or concerns you might have regarding Air Force activities and their potential impact on lands under your jurisdiction, can be directed to this office.

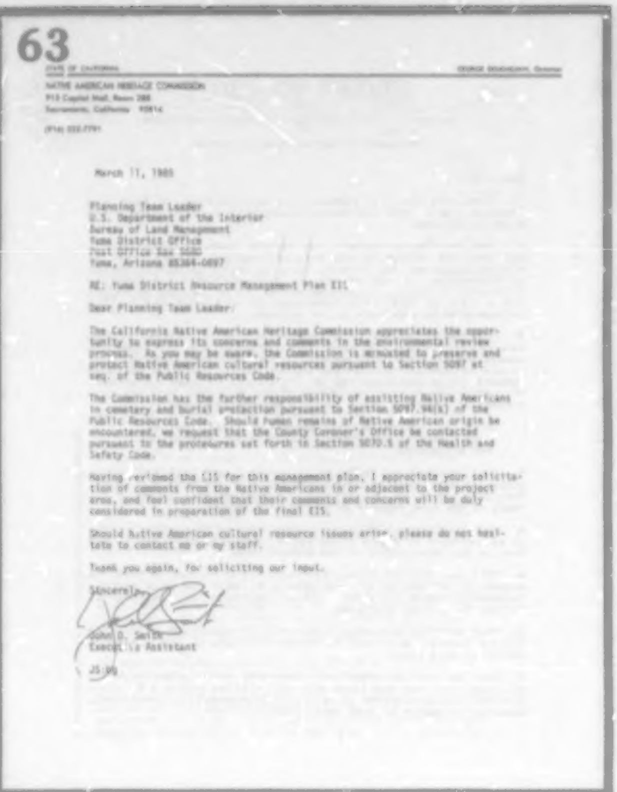


6. We appreciate your past efforts to include the Air Force in the review and comment coordination of environmental documents and management plans. Our natural resource project officer, Mr. William Cox, can address any questions or concerns. He can be contacted at (415) 556-6439 or FTS 556-6439.

Phillip E. Lammi
PHILLIP E. LAMMI, Chief
Environmental Planning Division

1 Atch
AP/1B Chart

63



STATE OF CALIFORNIA GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor
NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE COMMISSION
915 Capitol Mall, Room 288
Sacramento, California 95814

(916) 322-7791

March 11, 1985

Planning Team Leader
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
Post Office Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

RE: Yuma District Resource Management Plan EIS

Dear Planning Team Leader:

The California Native American Heritage Commission appreciates the opportunity to express its concerns and comments in the environmental review process. As you may be aware, the Commission is mandated to preserve and protect Native American cultural resources pursuant to Section 5097 et seq. of the Public Resources Code.

The Commission has the further responsibility of assisting Native Americans in cemetery and burial protection pursuant to Section 5097.94(k) of the Public Resources Code. Should human remains of Native American origin be encountered, we request that the County Coroner's Office be contacted pursuant to the procedures set forth in Section 7050.5 of the Health and Safety Code.

Having reviewed the EIS for this management plan, I appreciate your solicitation of comments from the Native Americans in or adjacent to the project area, and feel confident that their comments and concerns will be duly considered in preparation of the final EIS.

Should Native American cultural resource issues arise, please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff.

Thank you again, for soliciting our input.

Sincerely,

John D. Smith
Executive Assistant

JS:bg

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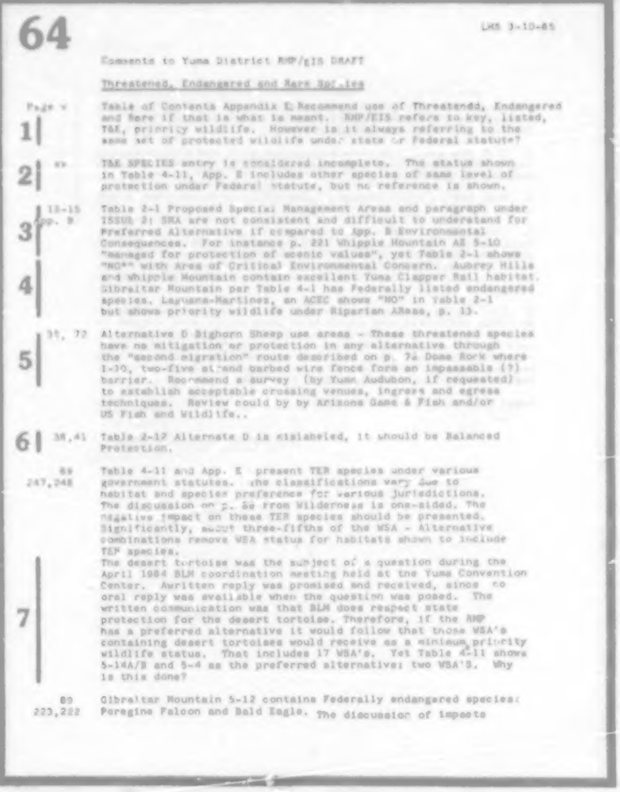


LHS 3-10-85

Comments to Yuma District RMP/EIS DRAFT

Threatened, Endangered and Rare Species

Page v
1 Table of Contents Appendix E Recommend use of Threatened, Endangered and Rare if that is what is meant. RMP/EIS refers to key, listed, T&E, priority wildlife. However is it always referring to the same set of protected wildlife under state or Federal statute?

2 xv T&E SPECIES entry is considered incomplete. The status shown in Table 4-11, App. E includes other species of same level of protection under Federal statute, but no reference is shown.

3 13-15 App. B Table 2-1 Proposed Special Management Areas and paragraph under ISSUE 2; SMA are not consistent and difficult to understand for Preferred Alternative if compared to App. B Environmental Consequences. For instance p. 221 Whipple Mountain AZ 5-10 "managed for protection of scenic values", yet Table 2-1 shows "NO*" with Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

4 Aubrey Hills and Whipple Mountain contain excellent Yuma Clapper Rail habitat. Gibraltar Mountain per Table 4-1 has Federally listed endangered species. Laguna-Martinez, an ACEC shows "NO" in Table 2-1 but shows priority wildlife under Riparian AReas, p. 13.

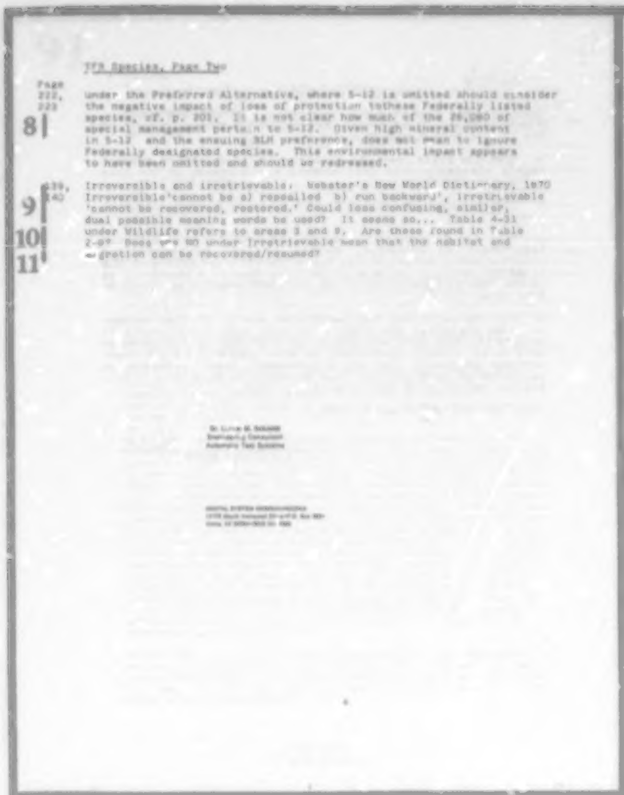
5 31, 72 Alternative D Bighorn Sheep use areas - These threatened species have no mitigation or protection in any alternative through the "second migration" route described on p. 72 Dome Rock where I-10, two-five strand barbed wire fence form an impassable (?) barrier. Recommend a survey (by Yuma Audubon, if requested) to establish acceptable crossing venues, ingress and egress techniques. Review could by by Arizona Game & Fish and/or US Fish and Wildlife..

6 38,41 Table 2-12 Alternate D is mislabeled, it should be Balanced Protection.

89
247,248 Table 4-11 and App. E present TER species under various government statutes. The classifications vary due to habitat and species preference for various jurisdictions. The discussion on p. 88 from Wilderness is one-sided. The negative impact on these TER species should be presented. Significantly, about three-fifths of the WSA - Alternative combinations remove WSA status for habitats shown to include TER species.

7 The desert tortoise was the subject of a question during the April 1984 BLM coordination meeting held at the Yuma Convention Center. A written reply was promised and received, since no oral reply was available when the question was posed. The written communication was that BLM does respect state protection for the desert tortoise. Therefore, if the RMP has a preferred alternative it would follow that those WSA's containing desert tortoises would receive as a minimum priority wildlife status. That includes 17 WSA's. Yet Table 4-11 shows 5-14A/B and 5-4 as the preferred alternative: two WSA'S. Why is this done?

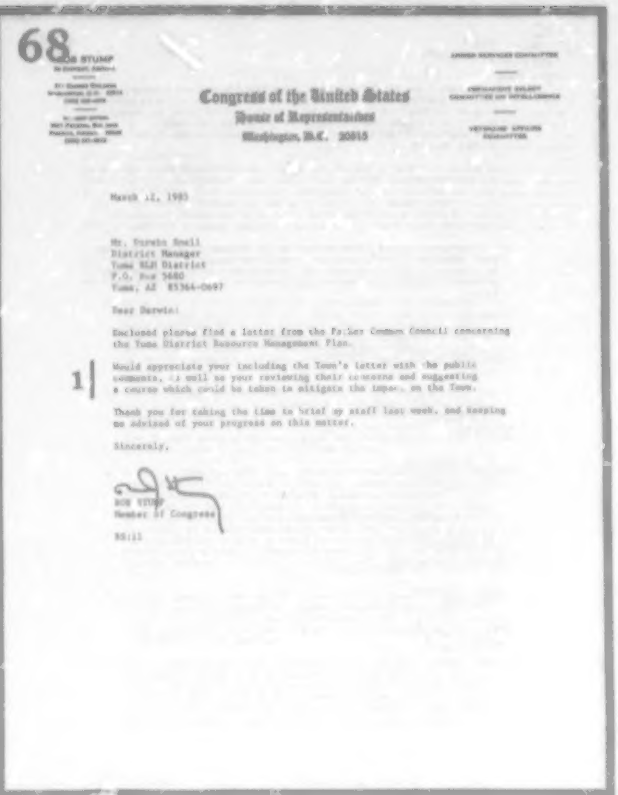
89
223,222 Gibraltar Mountain 5-12 contains Federally endangered species: Peregine Falcon and Bald Eagle. The discussion of impacts



TFR Species, Page Two

Page 222, 223 — 8| Under the Preferred Alternative, where S-12 is omitted should consider the negative impact of loss of protection tothese Federally listed species, cf. p. 201. It is not clear how much of the 26,080 of special management pertain to S-12. Given high mineral content in S-12 and the ensuing BLM preference, does not mean to ignore Federally designated species. This environmental impact appears to have been omitted and should be redressed.

239, 240 — 9| Irreversible and irretrievable: Webster's New World Dictionary, 1970 Irreversible'cannot be a) repealled b) run backward', irretrievable 'cannot be recovered, restored.' Could less confusing, similar, dual possible meaning words be used? It seems so... 10| Table 4-31 under Wildlife refers to areas 3 and 8. Are these found in Table 2-8? 11| Does the WD under Irretrievable mean that the habitat and migration can be recovered/resumed?



68

BOB STUMP

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

March 12, 1985

Mr. Darwin Snell
District Manager
Yuma BLM District
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, AZ 85364-0697

Dear Darwin:

Enclosed please find a letter from the Parker Common Council concerning the Yuma District Resource Management Plan.

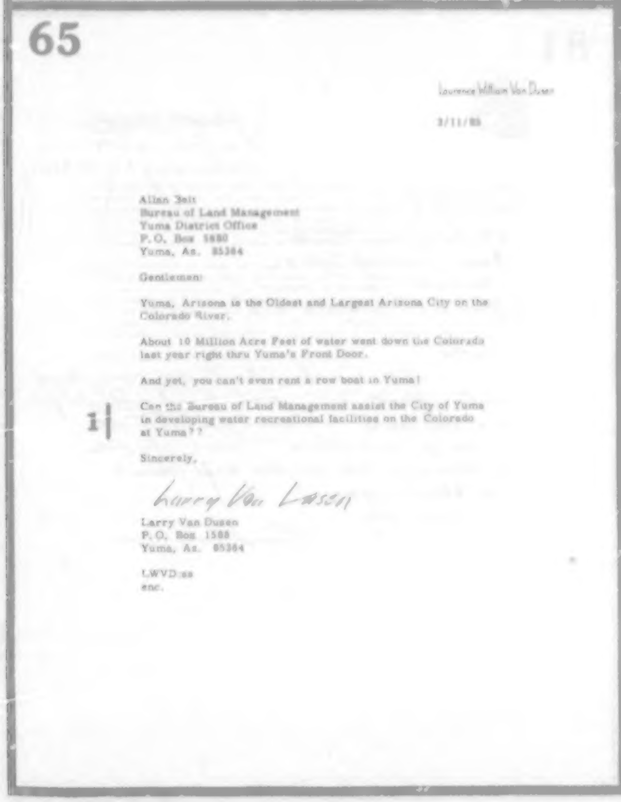
1| Would appreciate your including the Town's letter with the public comments, as well as your reviewing their concerns and suggesting a course which could be taken to mitigate the impact on the Town.

Thank you for taking the time to brief my staff last week, and keeping me advised of your progress on this matter.

Sincerely,

BOB STUMP
Member of Congress

BS:ll



65

Laurence William Van Dusen

3/11/85

Allan Belt
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, Az. 85364

Gentlemen:

Yuma, Arizona is the Oldest and Largest Arizona City on the Colorado River.

About 10 Million Acre Feet of water went down the Colorado last year right thru Yuma's Front Door.

And yet, you can't even rent a row boat in Yuma!

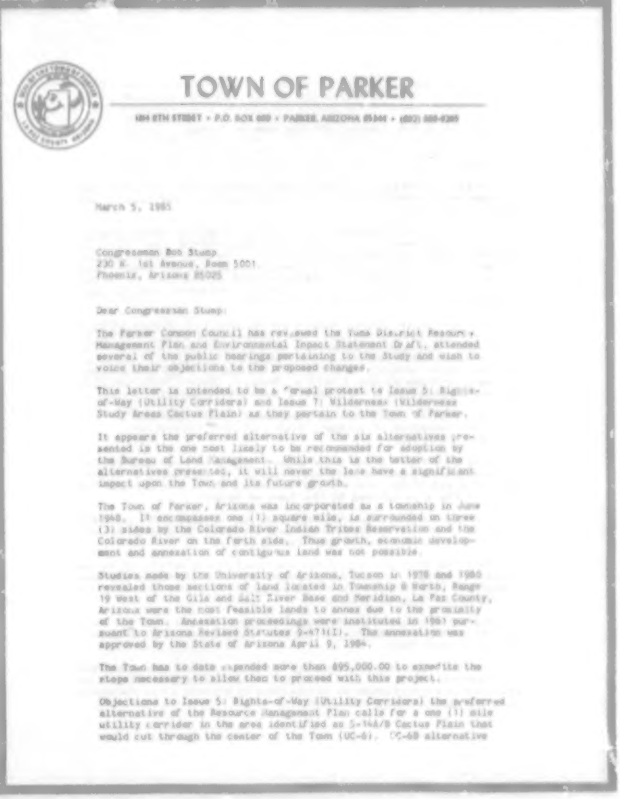
1| Can the Bureau of Land Management assist the City of Yuma in developing water recreational facilities on the Colorado at Yuma??

Sincerely,

Larry Van Dusen

Larry Van Dusen
P.O. Box 1588
Yuma, Az. 85364

LWVD:ss
enc.



TOWN OF PARKER

March 5, 1985

Congressman Bob Stump
230 N. 1st Avenue, Room 5001
Phoenix, Arizona 85025

Dear Congressman Stump:

The Parker Common Council has reviewed the Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement Draft, attended several of the public hearings pertaining to the Study and wish to voice their objections to the proposed changes.

This letter is intended to be a formal protest to Issue 5: Rights-of-Way (Utility Corridors) and Issue 7: Wilderness (Wilderness Study Areas Cactus Plain) as they pertain to the Town of Parker.

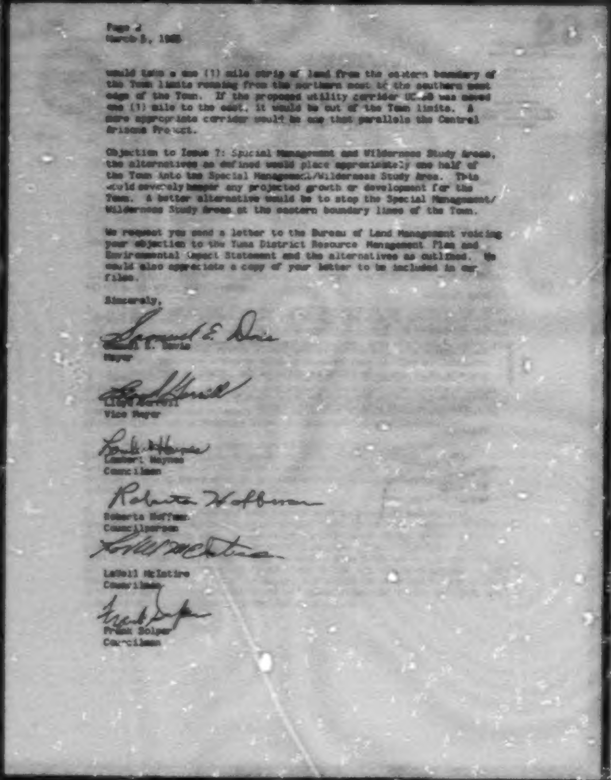
It appears the preferred alternative of the six alternatives presented is the one most likely to be recommended for adoption by the Bureau of Land Management. While this is the better of the alternatives presented, it will never the less have a significant impact upon the Town and its future growth.

The Town of Parker, Arizona was incorporated as a township in June 1948. It encompasses one (1) square mile, is surrounded on three (3) sides by the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation and the Colorado River on the forth side. Thus growth, economic development and annexation of contiguous land was not possible.

Studies made by the University of Arizona, Tucson in 1978 and 1980 revealed those sections of land located in Township 8 North, Range 19 West of the Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, La Paz County, Arizona were the most feasible lands to annex due to the proximity of the Town. Annexation proceedings were instituted in 1981 pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes 9-471(I). The annexation was approved by the State of Arizona April 9, 1984.

The Town has to date expended more than $95,000.00 to expedite the steps necessary to allow them to proceed with this project.

Objections to Issue 5: Rights-of-Way (Utility Corridors) the preferred alternative of the Resource Management Plan calls for a one (1) mile utility corridor in the area identified as S-14A/B Cactus Plain that would cut through the center of the Town (UC-6). UC-6B alternative



Page 2
March 5, 1985

would take a one (1) mile strip of land from the eastern boundary of the Town limits running from the northern most to the southern most edge of the Town. If the proposed utility corridor UC-6B was moved one (1) mile to the east, it would be out of the Town limits. A more appropriate corridor would be one that parallels the Central Arizona Project.

Objection to Issue 7: Special Management and Wilderness Study Areas, the alternatives as defined would place approximately one half of the Town into the Special Management/Wilderness Study Area. This would severely hamper any projected growth or development for the Town. A better alternative would be to stop the Special Management/Wilderness Study Areas at the eastern boundary lines of the Town.

We request you send a letter to the Bureau of Land Management voicing your objection to the Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement and the alternatives as outlined. We would also appreciate a copy of your letter to be included in our files.

Sincerely,

Samuel E. Davis
Samuel E. Davis
Mayor

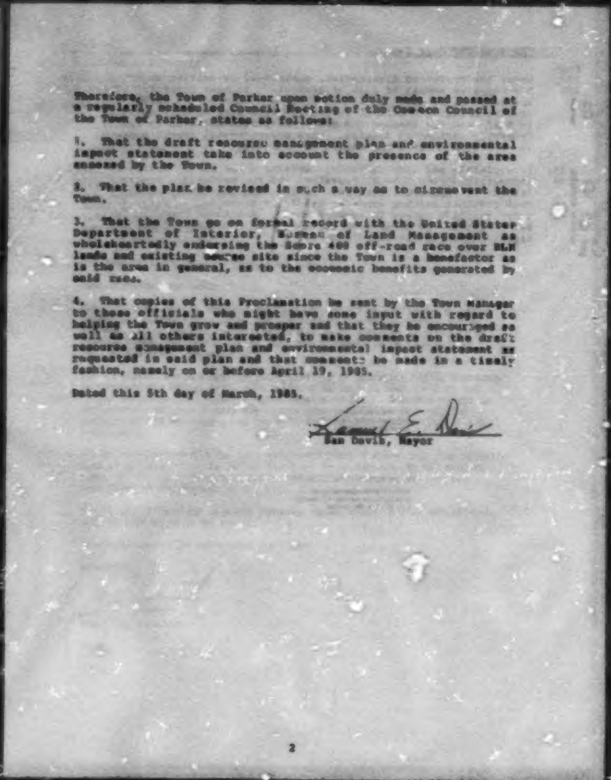
Lloyd Harrell
Vice Mayor

Lambert Haynes
Councilman

Roberta Hoffman
Roberta Hoffman
Councilperson

LaNell McIntire
Councilman

Frank Dolper
Councilman



Therefore, the Town of Parker upon motion duly made and passed at a regularly scheduled Council Meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Parker, states as follows:

1. That the draft resource management plan and environmental impact statement take into account the presence of the area annexed by the Town.

2. That the plan be revised in such a way as to circumvent the Town.

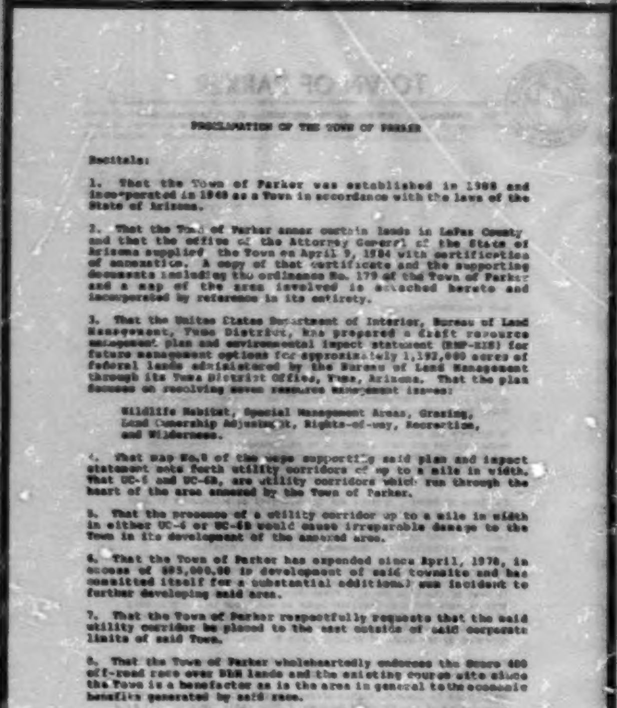
3. That the Town go on formal record with the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management as wholeheartedly endorsing the Score 400 off-road race over BLM lands and existing course site since the Town is a benefactor as is the area in general, as to the economic benefits generated by said race.

4. That copies of this Proclamation be sent by the Town Manager to those officials who might have some input with regard to helping the Town grow and prosper and that they be encouraged as well as all others interested, to make comments on the draft resource management plan and environmental impact statement as requested in said plan and that comments be made in a timely fashion, namely on or before April 19, 1985.

Dated this 5th day of March, 1985.

Samuel E. Davis
Sam Davis, Mayor

2



TOWN OF PARKER

PROCLAMATION OF THE TOWN OF PARKER

Recitals:

1. That the Town of Parker was established in 1908 and incorporated in 1948 as a Town in accordance with the laws of the State of Arizona.

2. That the Town of Parker annex certain lands in LaPaz County and that the office of the Attorney General of the State of Arizona supplied the Town on April 9, 1984 with certification of annexation. A copy of that certificate and the supporting documents including the ordinance No. 179 of the Town of Parker and a map of the area involved is attached hereto and incorporated by reference in its entirety.

3. That the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District, has prepared a draft resource management plan and environmental impact statement (RMP-EIS) for future management options for approximately 1,192,000 acres of federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management through its Yuma District Office, Yuma, Arizona. That the plan focuses on resolving seven resource management issues:

Wildlife Habitat, Special Management Areas, Grazing, Land Ownership Adjustment, Rights-of-way, Recreation, and Wilderness.

4. That map No.8 of the maps supporting said plan and impact statement sets forth utility corridors of up to a mile in width. That UC-6 and UC-6B, are utility corridors which run through the heart of the area annexed by the Town of Parker.

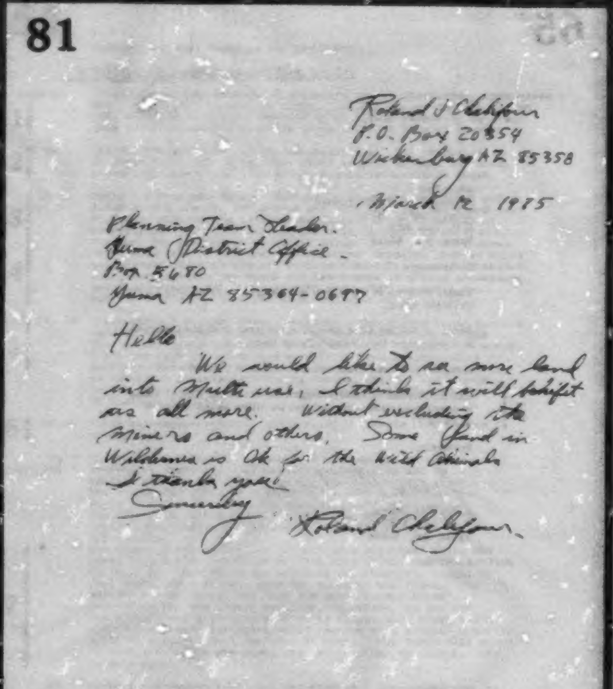
5. That the presence of a utility corridor up to a mile in width in either UC-6 or UC-6B would cause irreparable damage to the Town in its development of the annexed area.

6. That the Town of Parker has expended since April, 1978, in excess of $85,000.00 in development of said townsite and has committed itself for a substantial additional sum incident to further developing said area.

7. That the Town of Parker respectfully requests that the said utility corridor be placed to the east outside of said corporate limits of said Town.

8. That the Town of Parker wholeheartedly endorses the Score 400 off-road race over BLM lands and the existing course site since the Town is a benefactor as is the area in general to the economic benefits generated by said race.

1



81

Roland J Chelifour
P.O. Box 20354
Wickenburg AZ 85358

March 12 1985

Planning Team Leader.
Yuma District Office.
Box 5680
Yuma AZ 85364-0697

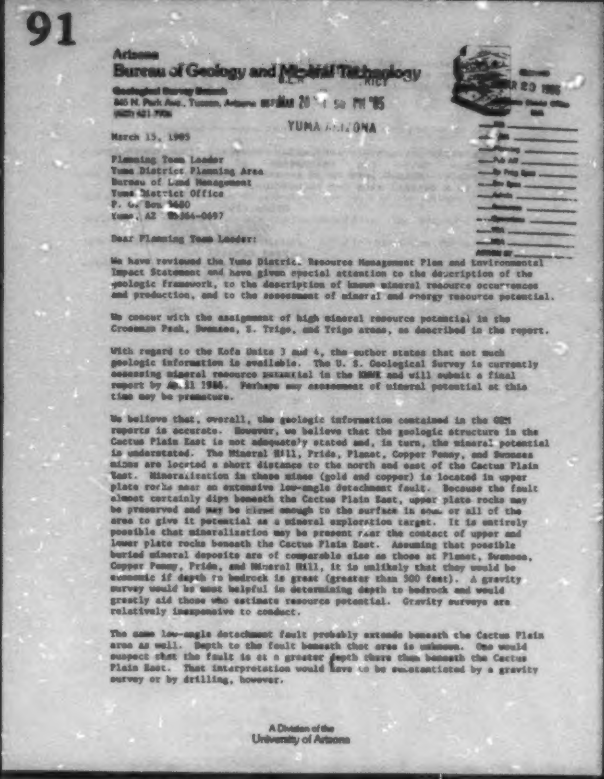
Hello

We would like to see more land into Multi use, I think it will benifit us all more. Without excluding the miners and others. Some land in Wilderness is Ok for the Wild Animals

I thank you

Sincerely

Roland Chelifour



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Arizona
Bureau of Geology and Mineral Technology
Geological Survey Branch
845 N. Park Ave., Tucson, Arizona 85719
(602) 621-7906

RECEIVED
MAR 20 1985
Yuma District Office
BLM

BLM YUMA DISTRICT
MAR 20 1 50 PM '85
YUMA ARIZONA

March 15, 1985

Planning Team Leader
Yuma District Planning Area
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P. O. Box 5680
Yuma, AZ 85364-0697

Dear Planning Team Leader:

We have reviewed the Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement and have given special attention to the description of the geologic framework, to the description of known mineral resource occurrences and production, and to the assessment of mineral and energy resource potential.

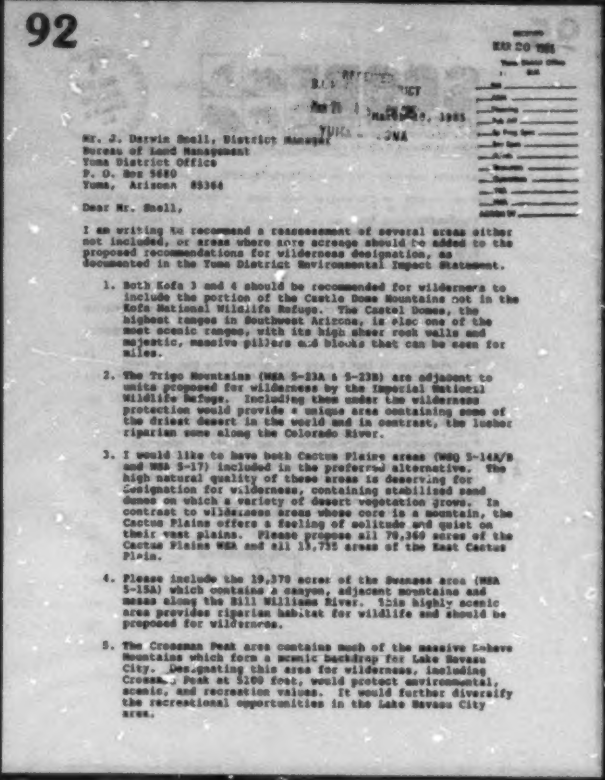
We concur with the assignment of high mineral resource potential in the Crossman Peak, Swansea, S. Trigo, and Trigo areas, as described in the report.

With regard to the Kofa Units 3 and 4, the author states that not much geologic information is available. The U. S. Geological Survey is currently assessing mineral resource potential in the KNWR and will submit a final report by April 1986. Perhaps any assessment of mineral potential at this time may be premature.

We believe that, overall, the geologic information contained in the GEM reports is accurate. However, we believe that the geologic structure in the Cactus Plain East is not adequately stated and, in turn, the mineral potential is understated. The Mineral Hill, Pride, Planet, Copper Penny, and Swansea mines are located a short distance to the north and east of the Cactus Plain East. Mineralization in these mines (gold and copper) is located in upper plate rocks near an extensive low-angle detachment fault. Because the fault almost certainly dips beneath the Cactus Plain East, upper plate rocks may be preserved and may be close enough to the surface in some or all of the area to give it potential as a mineral exploration target. It is entirely possible that mineralization may be present near the contact of upper and lower plate rocks beneath the Cactus Plain East. Assuming that possible buried mineral deposits are of comparable size as those at Planet, Swansea, Copper Penny, Pride, and Mineral Hill, it is unlikely that they would be economic if depth to bedrock is great (greater than 500 feet). A gravity survey would be most helpful in determining depth to bedrock and would greatly aid those who estimate resource potential. Gravity surveys are relatively inexpensive to conduct.

The same low-angle detachment fault probably extends beneath the Cactus Plain area as well. Depth to the fault beneath that area is unknown. One would suspect that the fault is at a greater depth there than beneath the Cactus Plain East. That interpretation would have to be substantiated by a gravity survey or by drilling, however.

A Division of the
University of Arizona



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RECEIVED
MAR 20 1985
Yuma District Office
BLM

RECEIVED
BLM YUMA DISTRICT
MAR 20 1 05 PM '85
YUMA ARIZONA

March 15, 1985

Mr. J. Darwin Snell, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P. O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364

Dear Mr. Snell,

I am writing to recommend a reassessment of several areas either not included, or areas where more acreage should be added to the proposed recommendations for wilderness designation, as documented in the Yuma District Environmental Impact Statement.

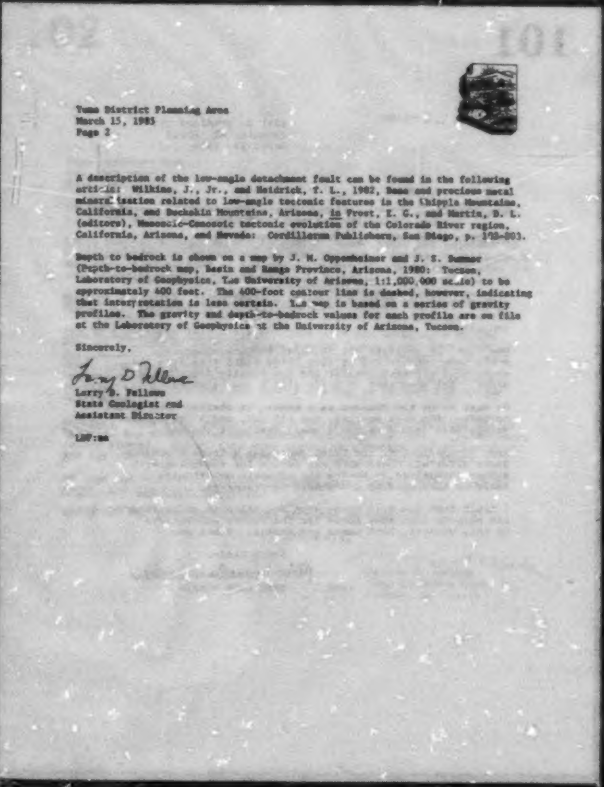
1. Both Kofa 3 and 4 should be recommended for wilderness to include the portion of the Castle Dome Mountains not in the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge. The Castel Domes, the highest ranges in Southwest Arizona, is also one of the most scenic ranges, with its high sheer rock walls and majestic, massive pillars and blocks that can be seen for miles.

2. The Trigo Mountains (WSA 5-23A & 5-23B) are adjacent to units proposed for wilderness by the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge. Including them under the wilderness protection would provide a unique area containing some of the driest desert in the world and in contrast, the lusher riparian zone along the Colorado River.

3. I would like to have both Cactus Plains areas (WSQ 5-14A/B and WSA 5-17) included in the preferred alternative. The high natural quality of these areas is deserving for designation for wilderness, containing stabilized sand dunes on which a variety of desert vegetation grows. In contrast to wilderness areas whose core is a mountain, the Cactus Plains offers a feeling of solitude and quiet on their vast plains. Please propose all 70,360 acres of the Cactus Plains WSA and all 13,735 areas of the East Cactus Plain.

4. Please include the 19,370 acres of the Swansea area (WSA 5-15A) which contains a canyon, adjacent mountains and mesas along the Bill Williams River. This highly scenic area provides riparian habitat for wildlife and should be proposed for wilderness.

5. The Crossman Peak area contains much of the massive Mohave Mountains which form a scenic backdrop for Lake Havasu City. Designating this area for wilderness, including Crossman Peak at 5100 feet, would protect environmental, scenic, and recreation values. It would further diversify the recreational opportunities in the Lake Havasu City area.



Yuma District Planning Area
March 15, 1985
Page 2

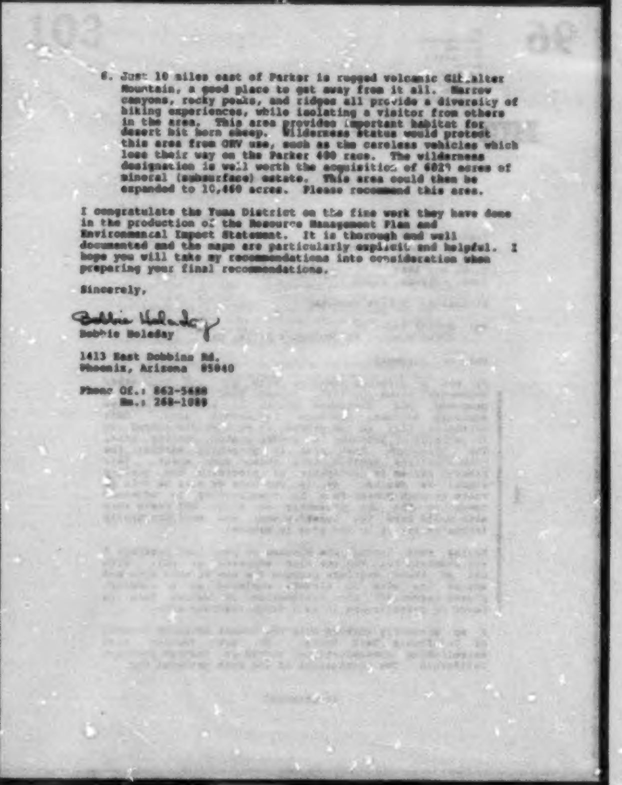
A description of the low-angle detachment fault can be found in the following article: Wilkins, J., Jr., and Heidrick, T. L., 1982, Base and precious metal mineralization related to low-angle tectonic features in the Whipple Mountains, California, and Buckskin Mountains, Arizona, in Frost, E. G., and Martin, D. L. (editors), Mesozoic-Cenozoic tectonic evolution of the Colorado River region, California, Arizona, and Nevada: Cordilleran Publishers, San Diego, p. 182-203.

Depth to bedrock is shown on a map by J. H. Oppenheimer and J. S. Sumner (Depth-to-bedrock map, Basin and Range Province, Arizona, 1980: Tucson, Laboratory of Geophysics, The University of Arizona, 1:1,000,000 scale) to be approximately 400 feet. The 400-foot contour line is dashed, however, indicating that interpretation is less certain. The map is based on a series of gravity profiles. The gravity and depth-to-bedrock values for each profile are on file at the Laboratory of Geophysics at the University of Arizona, Tucson.

Sincerely,

Larry D Fellows
Larry D. Fellows
State Geologist and
Assistant Director

LDF:mm



6. Just 10 miles east of Parker is rugged volcanic Gibralter Mountain, a good place to get away from it all. Narrow canyons, rocky peaks, and ridges all provide a diversity of hiking experiences, while isolating a visitor from others in the area. This area provides important habitat for desert big horn sheep. Wilderness status would protect this area from ORV use, such as the careless vehicles which lose their way on the Parker 400 race. The wilderness designation is well worth the acquisition of 6029 acres of mineral (subsurface) estate. This area could then be expanded to 10,460 acres. Please recommend this area.

I congratulate the Yuma District on the fine work they have done in the production of the Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. It is thorough and well documented and the maps are particularly explicit and helpful. I hope you will take my recommendations into consideration when preparing your final recommendations.

Sincerely,

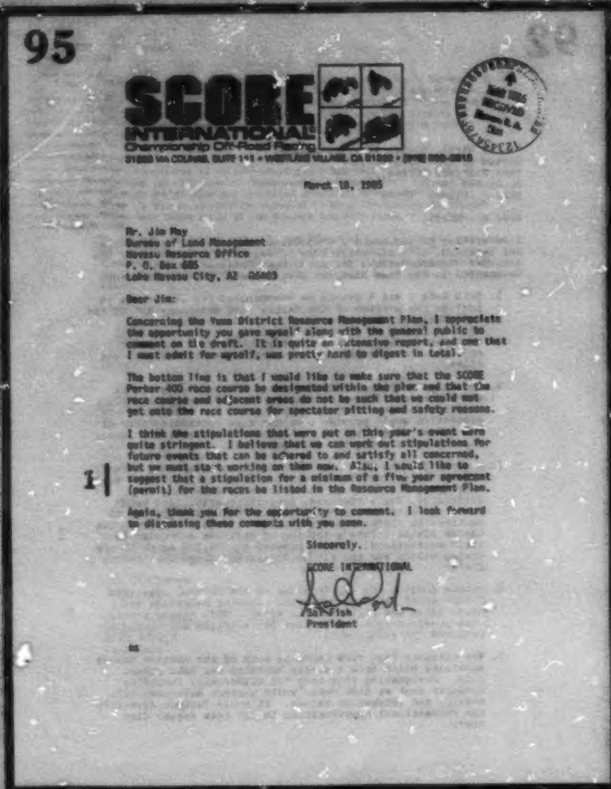
Bobbie Holaday
Bobbie Holaday

1413 East Dobbins Rd.
Phoenix, Arizona 85040

Phone Of.: 862-5600
Hm.: 268-1089

READEX FICHE

95



SCORE INTERNATIONAL
Championship Off-Road Racing

March 18, 1985

Mr. Jim May
Bureau of Land Management
Havasu Resource Office
P. O. Box 685
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

Dear Jim:

Concerning the Yuma District Resource Management Plan, I appreciate the opportunity you gave myself along with the general public to comment on the draft. It is quite an extensive report, and one that I must admit for myself, was pretty hard to digest in total.

The bottom line is that I would like to make sure that the SCORE Parker 400 race course be designated within the plan and that the race course and adjacent areas do not be such that we could not get onto the race course for spectator pitting and safety reasons.

1 I think the stipulations that were put on this year's event were quite stringent. I believe that we can work out stipulations for future events that can be adhered to and satisfy all concerned, but we must start working on them now. Also, I would like to suggest that a stipulation for a minimum of a five year agreement (permit) for the races be listed in the Resource Management Plan.

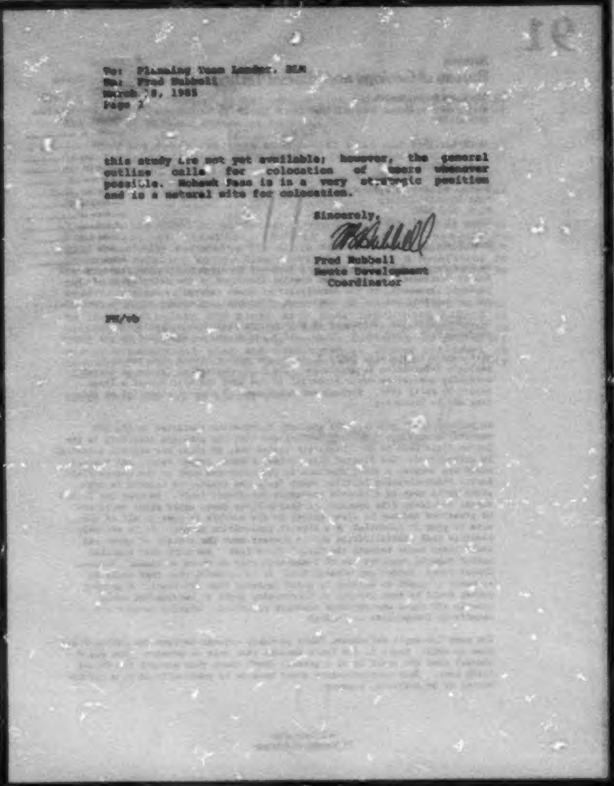
Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment. I look forward to discussing these comments with you soon.

Sincerely,

SCORE INTERNATIONAL

Sal Fish
President

ss



To: Planning Team Leader, BLM
Re: Fred Hubbell
March 18, 1985
Page 2

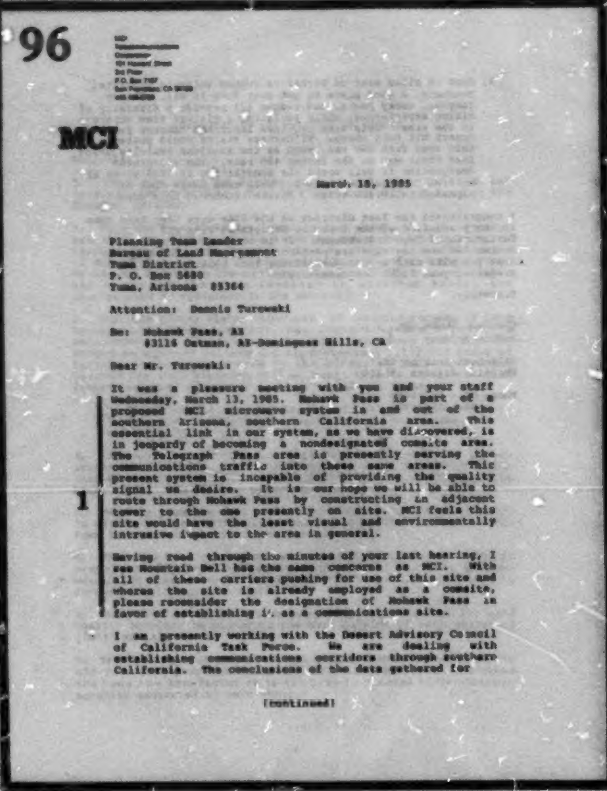
this study are not yet available; however, the general outline calls for colocation of users whenever possible. Mohawk Pass is in a very strategic position and is a natural site for colocation.

Sincerely,

Fred Hubbell
Route Development
Coordinator

FH/vb

96



MCI

March 18, 1985

Planning Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District
P. O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364

Attention: Dennis Turowski

Re: Mohawk Pass, AZ
#3116 Oatman, AZ-Dominguez Hills, CA

Dear Mr. Turowski:

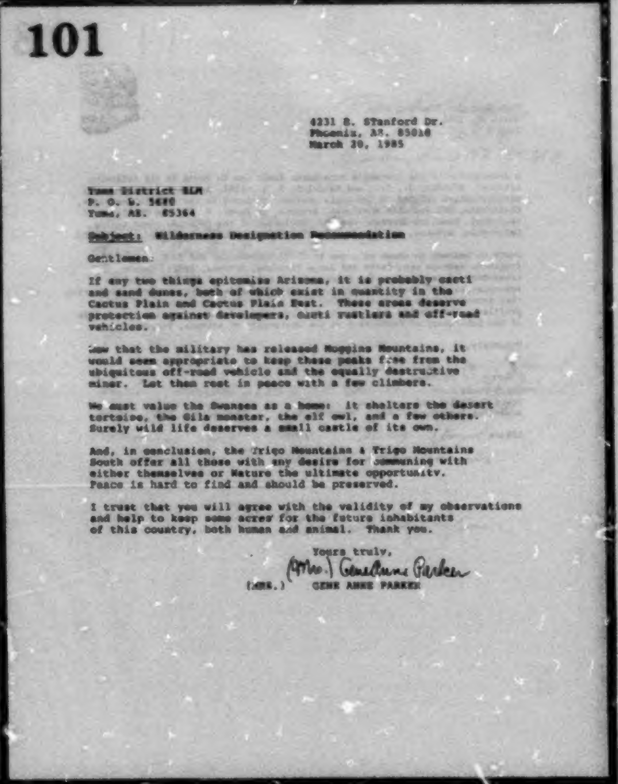
1 It was a pleasure meeting with you and your staff Wednesday, March 13, 1985. Mohawk Pass is part of a proposed MCI microwave system in and out of the southern Arizona, southern California area. This essential link in our system, as we have discovered, is in jeopardy of becoming a nondesignated comsite area. The Telegraph Pass area is presently serving the communications traffic into these same areas. This present system is incapable of providing the quality signal we desire. It is our hope we will be able to route through Mohawk Pass by constructing an adjacent tower to the one presently on site. MCI feels this site would have the least visual and environmentally intrusive impact to the area in general.

Having read through the minutes of your last hearing, I see Mountain Bell has the same concerns as MCI. With all of these carriers pushing for use of this site and whereas the site is already employed as a comsite, please reconsider the designation of Mohawk Pass in favor of establishing it as a communications site.

I am presently working with the Desert Advisory Council of California Task Force. We are dealing with establishing communications corridors through southern California. The conclusions of the data gathered for

[continued]

101



4231 E. Stanford Dr.
Phoenix, AZ. 85018
March 20, 1985

Yuma District BLM
P. O. B. 5680
Yuma, AZ. 85364

Subject: Wilderness Designation Recommendation

Gentlemen:

If any two things epitomize Arizona, it is probably cacti and sand dunes, both of which exist in quantity in the Cactus Plain and Cactus Plain East. These areas deserve protection against developers, cacti rustlers and off-road vehicles.

Now that the military has released Muggins Mountains, it would seem appropriate to keep these peaks free from the ubiquitous off-road vehicle and the equally destructive miner. Let them rest in peace with a few climbers.

We must value the Swansea as a home: it shelters the desert tortoise, the Gila monster, the elf owl, and a few others. Surely wild life deserves a small castle of its own.

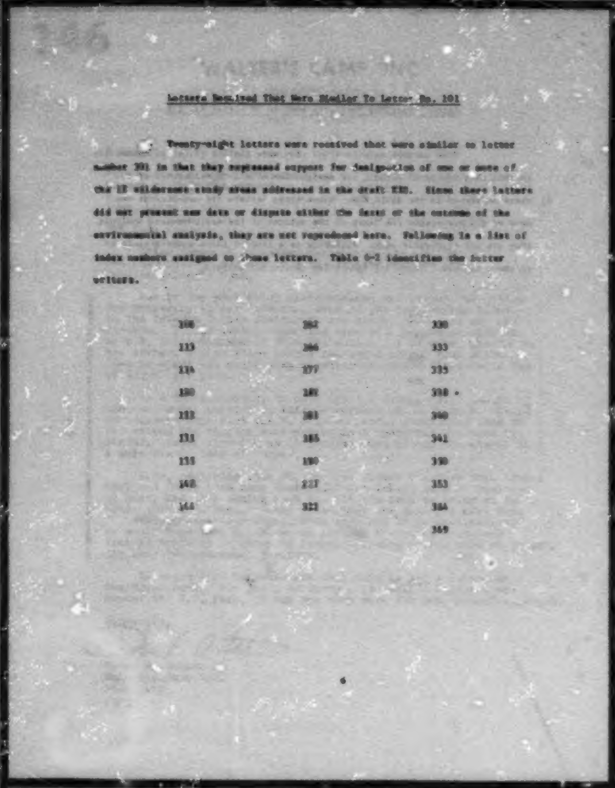
And, in conclusion, the Trigo Mountains & Trigo Mountains South offer all those with any desire for communing with either themselves or Nature the ultimate opportunity. Peace is hard to find and should be preserved.

I trust that you will agree with the validity of my observations and help to keep some acres for the future inhabitants of this country, both human and animal. Thank you.

Yours truly,

(Mrs.) Gene Anne Parker

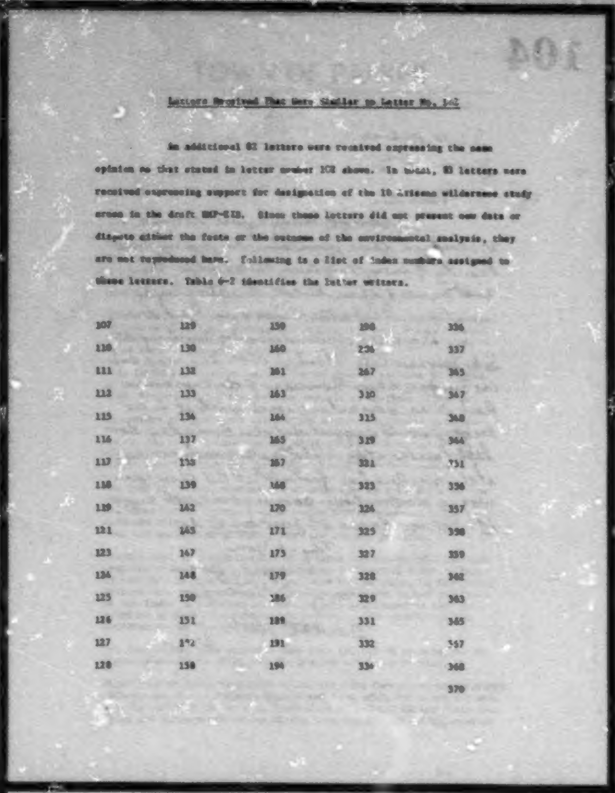
(MRS.) GENE ANNE PARKER



Letters Received That Were Similar To Letter No. 101

Twenty-eight letters were received that were similar to letter number 101 in that they expressed support for designation of one or more of the 12 wilderness study areas addressed in the draft EIS. Since these letters did not present new data or dispute either the facts or the outcome of the environmental analysis, they are not reproduced here. Following is a list of index numbers assigned to these letters. Table 6-2 identifies the letter writers.

106	162	330
113	166	333
114	177	335
120	181	338
122	183	340
131	185	341
135	190	350
140	227	353
144	322	364
		369

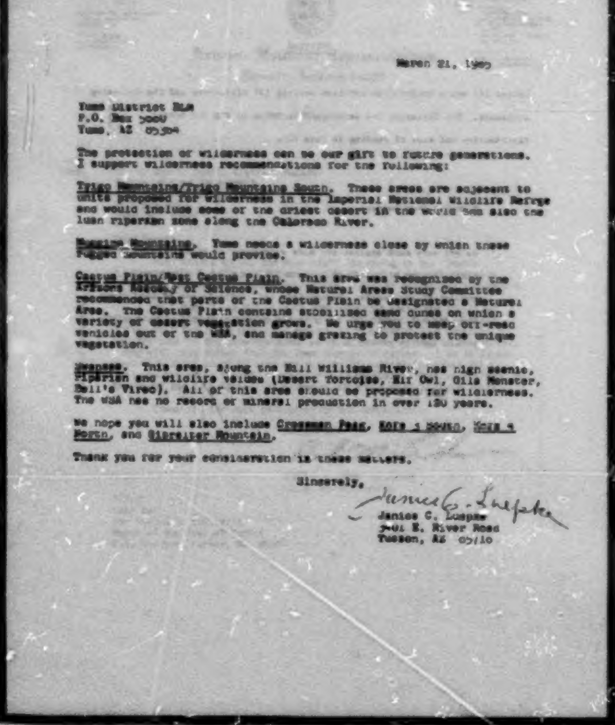


Letters Received That Were Similar to Letter No. 102

An additional 82 letters were received expressing the same opinion as that stated in letter number 102 above. In total, 83 letters were received expressing support for designation of the 10 Arizona wilderness study areas in the draft RMP-EIS. Since these letters did not present new data or dispute either the facts or the outcome of the environmental analysis, they are not reproduced here. Following is a list of index numbers assigned to these letters. Table 6-2 identifies the letter writers.

107	129	159	198	336
110	130	160	236	337
111	132	161	267	345
112	133	163	310	347
115	134	164	315	348
116	137	165	319	349
117	138	167	321	351
118	139	168	323	356
119	142	170	324	357
121	145	171	325	358
123	147	175	327	359
124	148	179	328	362
125	150	186	329	363
126	151	189	331	365
127	152	191	332	367
128	158	194	334	368
				370

102



March 21, 1985

Yuma District BLM
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, AZ 85364

The protection of wilderness can be our gift to future generations. I support wilderness recommendations for the following:

Trigo Mountains/Trigo Mountains South. These areas are adjacent to units proposed for wilderness in the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge and would include some of the driest desert in the world and also the lush riparian zone along the Colorado River.

Muggins Mountains. Yuma needs a wilderness close by which these rugged mountains would provide.

Cactus Plain/East Cactus Plain. This area was recognized by the Arizona Academy of Science, whose Natural Areas Study Committee recommended that parts of the Cactus Plain be designated a Natural Area. The Cactus Plain contains stabilized sand dunes on which a variety of desert vegetation grows. We urge you to keep off-road vehicles out of the WSA, and manage grazing to protect the unique vegetation.

Swansea. This area, along the Bill Williams River, has high scenic, riparian and wildlife values (Desert Tortoise, Elf Owl, Gila Monster, Bell's Vireo). All of this area should be proposed for wilderness. The WSA has no record of mineral production in over 100 years.

We hope you will also include Crossman Peak, Kofa's South, Kofa's North, and Gibraltar Mountain.

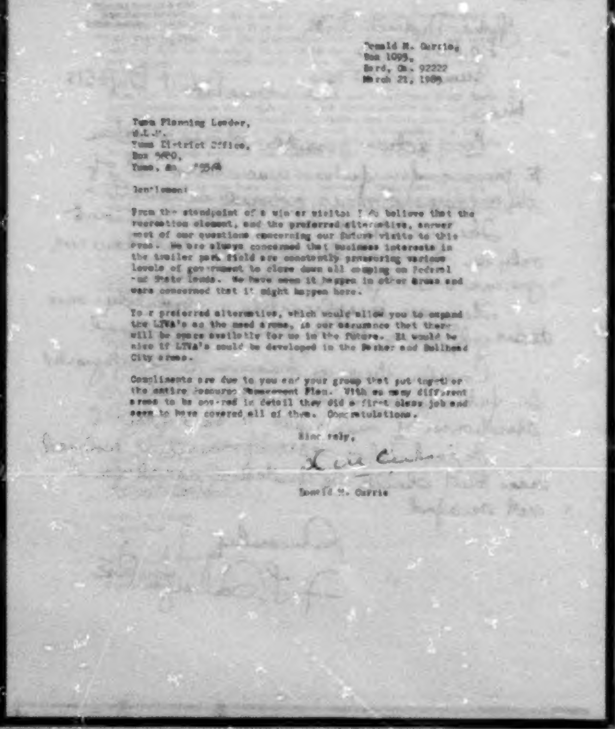
Thank you for your consideration in these matters.

Sincerely,

Janice C. Luepke

Janice C. Luepke
3401 E. River Road
Tucson, AZ 85718

103



Donald M. Currie,
Box 1095,
Bard, Ca. 92222
March 21, 1985

Yuma Planning Leader,
B.L.M.
Yuma District Office,
Box 5680,
Yuma, Az. 85364

Gentlemen:

From the standpoint of a winter visitor I do believe that the recreation element, and the preferred alternative, answer most of our questions concerning our future visits to this area. We are always concerned that business interests in the trailer park field are constantly pressuring various levels of government to close down all camping on Federal and State lands. We have seen it happen in other areas and were concerned that it might happen here.

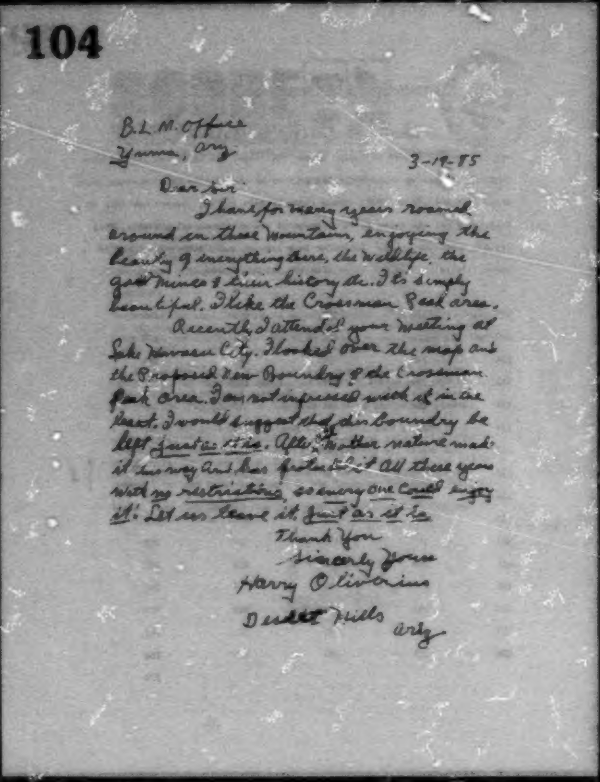
Your preferred alternative, which would allow you to expand the LTVA's as the need arises, is our assurance that there will be space available for us in the future. It would be nice if LTVA's could be developed in the Parker and Bullhead City areas.

Compliments are due to you and your group that put together the entire Resource Management Plan. With so many different areas to be covered in detail they did a first class job and seem to have covered all of them. Congratulations.

Sincerely,

Donald M. Currie

104



B.L.M. Office
Yuma, Ariz

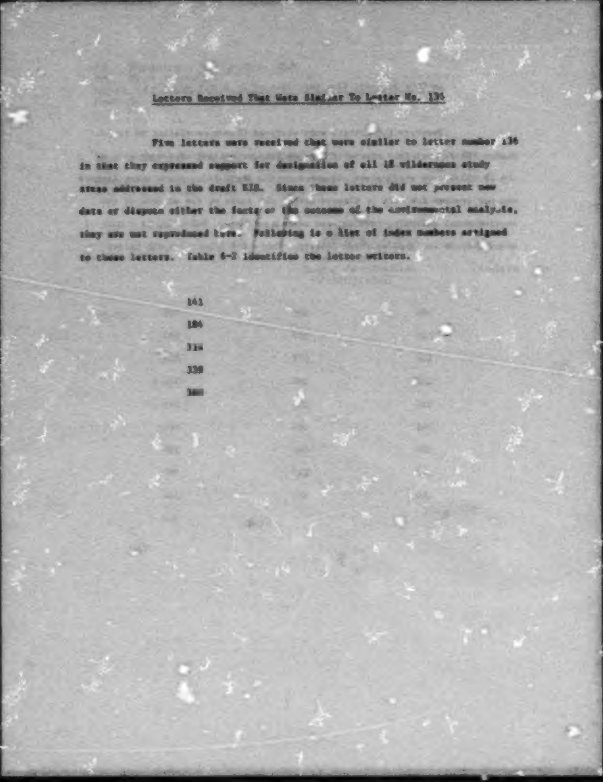
3-19-85

Dear Sir:

I have for many years roamed around in these mountains, enjoying the beauty of everything there, the wildlife, the gold mines & their history etc. It's simply beautiful. I like the Crossman Peak area.

Recently I attended your meeting at Lake Havasu City. I looked over the map and the proposed new Boundry of the Crossman Peak area. I am not impressed with it in the least. I would suggest that the boundry be kept just as it is. After all Mother nature made it this way and has protected it all these years with no restrictions, so every one could enjoy it. Let us leave it just as it is.

Thank You
Sincerely Yours
Harry Olivarius
Desert Hills Ariz

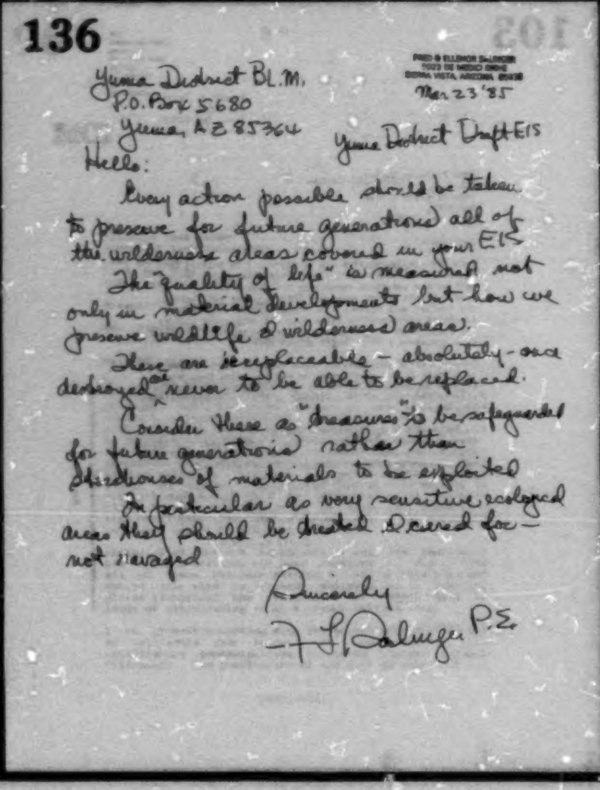


Letters Received That Were Similar To Letter No. 136

Five letters were received that were similar to letter number 136 in that they expressed support for designation of all 18 wilderness study areas addressed in the draft EIS. Since these letters did not present new data or dispute either the facts or the outcome of the environmental analysis, they are not reproduced here. Following is a list of index numbers assigned to these letters. Table 6-2 identifies the letter writers.

141
184
314
339
380

136



FRED & ELLENOR [illegible]
[illegible]
SIERRA VISTA, ARIZONA [illegible]

Mar 23 '85

Yuma District BLM,
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, AZ 85364

Yuma District Draft EIS

Hello:

Every action possible should be taken to preserve for future generations all of the wilderness areas covered in your EIS.

The "quality of life" is measured not only in material developments but how we preserve wildlife & wilderness areas.

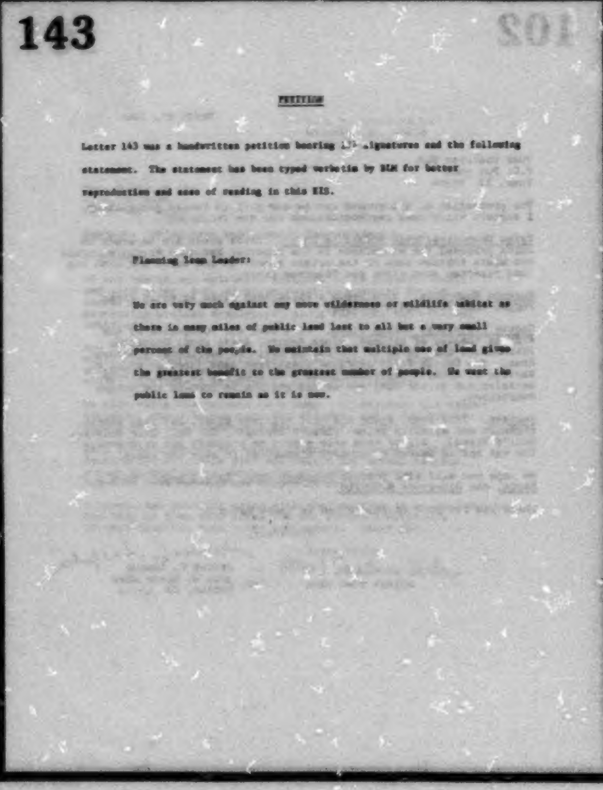
These are irreplaceable – absolutely – once destroyed are never to be able to be replaced.

Consider these as "treasures" to be safeguarded for future generations rather than storehouses of materials to be exploited.

In particular as very sensitive ecological areas that should be treated & cared for – not ravaged

Sincerely
F. L. Balinger P.E.

143



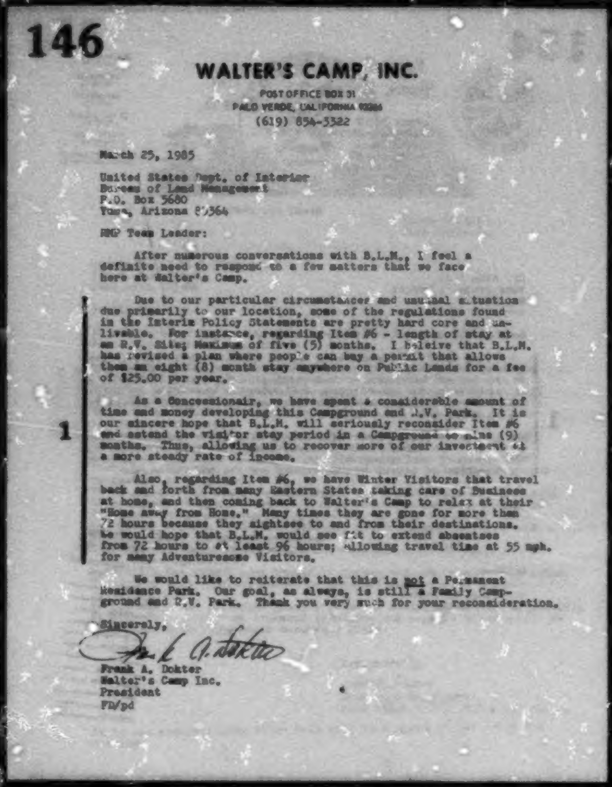
PETITION

Letter 143 was a handwritten petition bearing [illegible] signatures and the following statement. The statement has been typed verbatim by BLM for better reproduction and ease of reading in this EIS.

Planning Team Leader:

We are very much against any more wilderness or wildlife habitat as there is many miles of public land lost to all but a very small percent of the people. We maintain that multiple use of land gives the greatest benefit to the greatest number of people. We want the public land to remain as it is now.

146



WALTER'S CAMP, INC.
POST OFFICE BOX 31
PALO VERDE, CALIFORNIA 92266
(619) 854-5322

March 25, 1985

United States Dept. of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364

RMP Team Leader:

After numerous conversations with B.L.M., I feel a definite need to respond to a few matters that we face here at Walter's Camp.

1 Due to our particular circumstances and unusual situation due primarily to our location, some of the regulations found in the Interim Policy Statements are pretty hard core and unlivable. For instance, regarding Item #6 - length of stay at an R.V. Site; Maximum of five (5) months. I beleive that B.L.M. has revised a plan where people can buy a permit that allows them an eight (8) month stay anywhere on Public Lands for a fee of $25.00 per year.

As a Concessionair, we have spent a considerable amount of time and money developing this Campground and R.V. Park. It is our sincere hope that B.L.M. will seriously reconsider Item #6 and extend the visitor stay period in a Campground to nine (9) months. Thus, allowing us to recover more of our investment at a more steady rate of income.

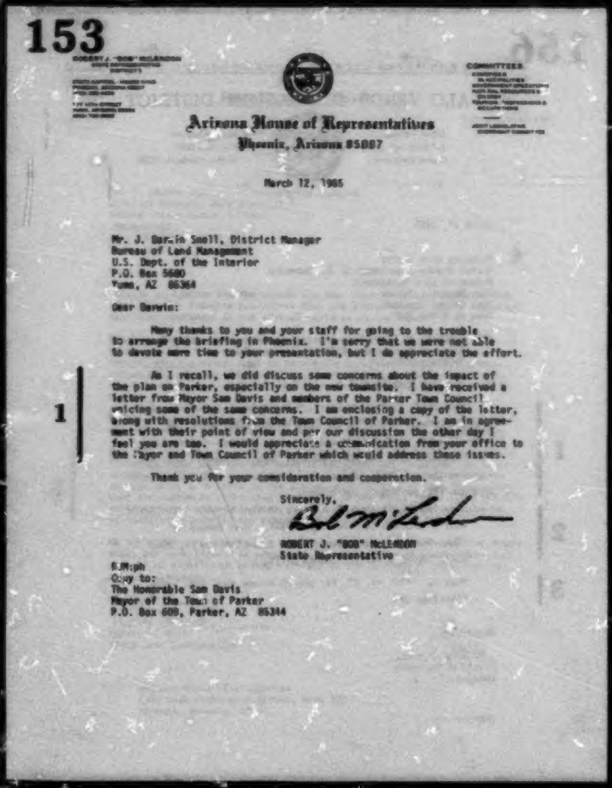
Also, regarding Item #6, we have Winter Visitors that travel back and forth from many Eastern States taking care of Business at home, and then coming back to Walter's Camp to relax at their "Home away from Home." Many times they are gone for more than 72 hours because they sightsee to and from their destinations. We would hope that B.L.M. would see fit to extend absentees from 72 hours to at least 96 hours; allowing travel time at 55 mph. for many Adventuresome Visitors.

We would like to reiterate that this is not a Permanent Residence Park. Our goal, as always, is still a Family Campground and R.V. Park. Thank you very much for your reconsideration.

Sincerely,

Frank A. Dokter
Walter's Camp Inc.
President
FD/pd

153



Arizona House of Representatives
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

March 12, 1985

Mr. J. Darwin Snell, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Dept. of the Interior
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, AZ 85364

Dear Darwin:

Many thanks to you and your staff for going to the trouble to arrange the briefing in Phoenix. I'm sorry that we were not able to devote more time to your presentation, but I do appreciate the effort.

1 As I recall, we did discuss some concerns about the impact of the plan on Parker, especially on the new townsite. I have received a letter from Mayor Sam Davis and members of the Parker Town Council voicing some of the same concerns. I am enclosing a copy of the letter, along with resolutions from the Town Council of Parker. I am in agreement with their point of view and per our discussion the other day I feel you are too. I would appreciate a communication from your office to the Mayor and Town Council of Parker which would address these issues.

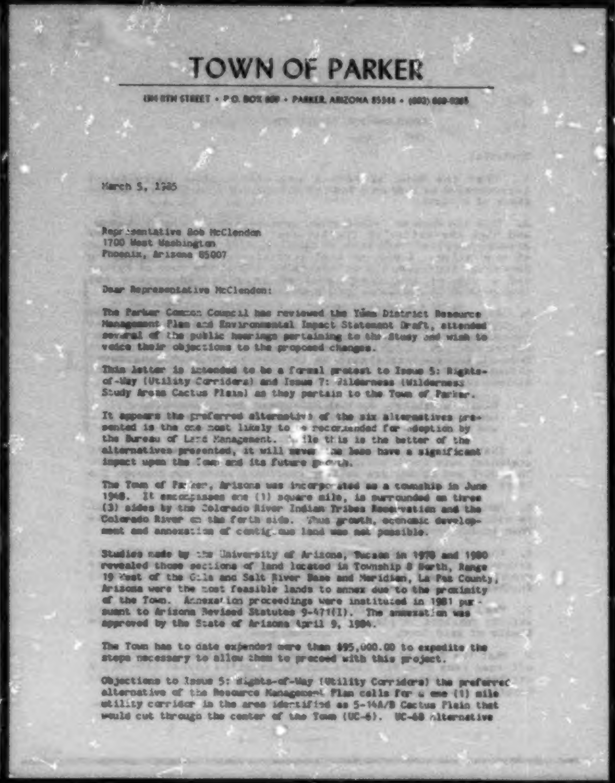
Thank you for your consideration and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Bob McLendon

ROBERT J. "BOB" McLENDON
State Representative

RJM:ph
Copy to:
The Honorable Sam Davis
Mayor of the Town of Parker
P.O. Box 609, Parker, AZ 85344



TOWN OF PARKER
[illegible] STREET • P.O. BOX 609 • PARKER, ARIZONA 85344 • (602) [illegible]

March 5, 1985

Representative Bob McClendon
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Dear Representative McClendon:

The Parker Common Council has reviewed the Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement Draft, attended several of the public hearings pertaining to the Study and wish to voice their objections to the proposed changes.

This letter is intended to be a formal protest to Issue 5: Rights-of-Way (Utility Corridors) and Issue 7: Wilderness (Wilderness Study Areas Cactus Plain) as they pertain to the Town of Parker.

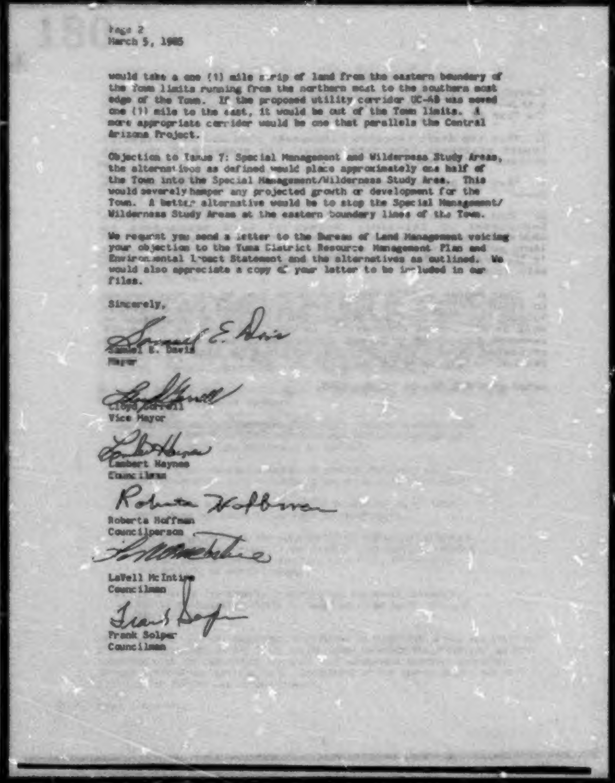
It appears the preferred alternative of the six alternatives presented is the one most likely to be recommended for adoption by the Bureau of Land Management. While this is the better of the alternatives presented, it will never the less have a significant impact upon the Town and its future growth.

The Town of Parker, Arizona was incorporated as a township in June 1948. It encompasses one (1) square mile, is surrounded on three (3) sides by the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation and the Colorado River on the forth side. Thus growth, economic development and annexation of contiguous land was not possible.

Studies made by the University of Arizona, Tucson in 1978 and 1980 revealed those sections of land located in Township 8 North, Range 19 West of the Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian, La Paz County, Arizona were the most feasible lands to annex due to the proximity of the Town. Annexation proceedings were instituted in 1981 pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes 9-471(I). The annexation was approved by the State of Arizona April 9, 1984.

The Town has to date expended more than $95,000.00 to expedite the steps necessary to allow them to proceed with this project.

Objections to Issue 5: Rights-of-Way (Utility Corridors) the preferred alternative of the Resource Management Plan calls for a one (1) mile utility corridor in the area identified as 5-14A/B Cactus Plain that would cut through the center of the Town (UC-6). UC-6B alternative



Page 2
March 5, 1985

would take a one (1) mile strip of land from the eastern boundary of the Town limits running from the northern most to the southern most edge of the Town. If the proposed utility corridor UC-6B was moved one (1) mile to the east, it would be out of the Town limits. A more appropriate corridor would be one that parallels the Central Arizona Project.

Objection to Issue 7: Special Management and Wilderness Study Areas, the alternatives as defined would place approximately one half of the Town into the Special Management/Wilderness Study Area. This would severely hamper any projected growth or development for the Town. A better alternative would be to stop the Special Management/Wilderness Study Areas at the eastern boundary lines of the Town.

We request you send a letter to the Bureau of Land Management voicing your objection to the Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement and the alternatives as outlined. We would also appreciate a copy of your letter to be included in our files.

Sincerely,

Samuel E. Davis

Samuel E. Davis
Mayor

Lloyd Carrell
Vice Mayor

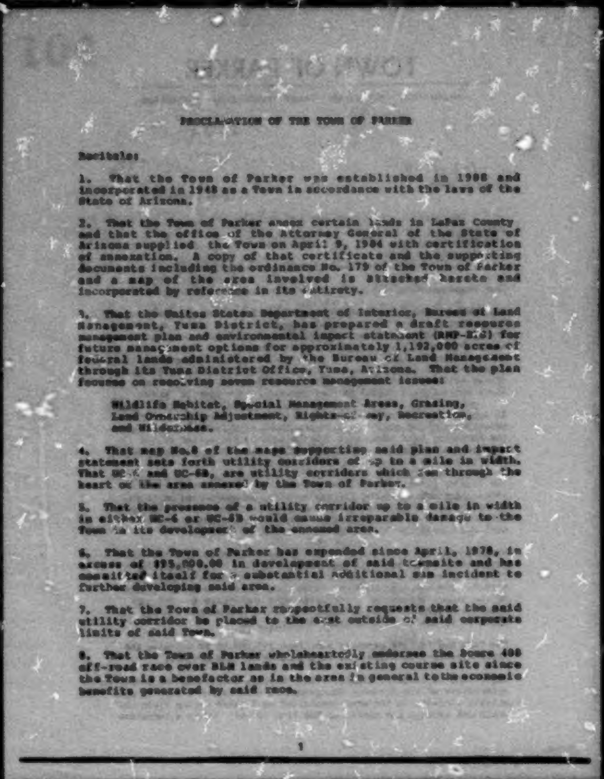
Lambert Haynes
Councilman

Roberta Hoffman

Roberta Hoffman
Councilperson

LaVell McIntire
Councilman

Frank Solper
Councilman



PROCLAMATION OF THE TOWN OF PARKER

Recitals:

1. That the Town of Parker was established in 1908 and incorporated in 1948 as a Town in accordance with the laws of the State of Arizona.

2. That the Town of Parker annex certain lands in LaPaz County and that the office of the Attorney General of the State of Arizona supplied the Town on April 9, 1984 with certification of annexation. A copy of that certificate and the supporting documents including the ordinance No. 179 of the Town of Parker and a map of the area involved is attached hereto and incorporated by reference in its entirety.

3. That the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District, has prepared a draft resource management plan and environmental impact statement (RMP-EIS) for future management options for approximately 1,192,000 acres of federal lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management through its Yuma District Office, Yuma, Arizona. That the plan focuses on resolving seven resource management issues:

Wildlife Habitat, Special Management Areas, Grazing,
Land Ownership Adjustment, Rights-of-way, Recreation,
and Wilderness.

4. That map No.8 of the maps supporting said plan and impact statement sets forth utility corridors of up to a mile in width. That UC-6 and UC-6B, are utility corridors which run through the heart of the area annexed by the Town of Parker.

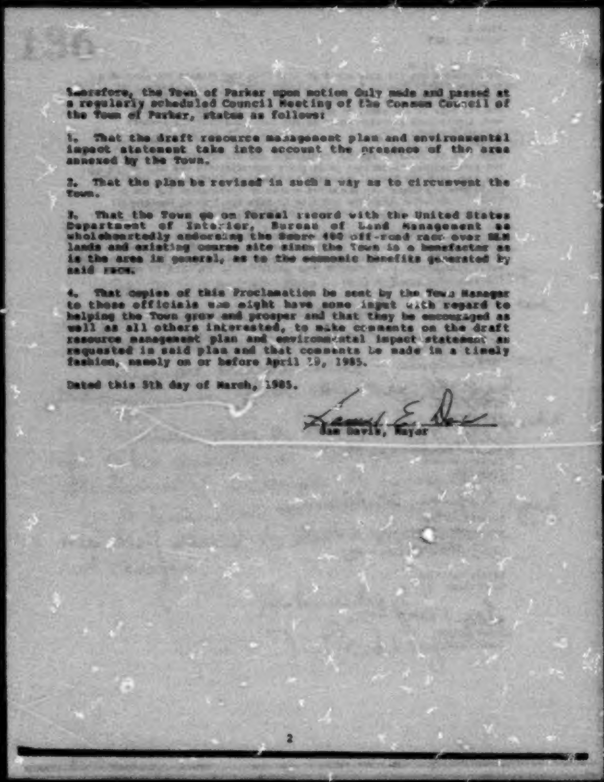
5. That the presence of a utility corridor up to a mile in width in either UC-6 or UC-6B would cause irreparable damage to the Town in its development of the annexed area.

6. That the Town of Parker has expended since April, 1978, in excess of $95,000.00 in development of said townsite and has committed itself for a substantial additional sum incident to further developing said area.

7. That the Town of Parker respectfully requests that the said utility corridor be placed to the east outside of said corporate limits of said Town.

8. That the Town of Parker wholeheartedly endorses the Score 400 off-road race over BLM lands and the existing course site since the Town is a benefactor as is the area in general to the economic benefits generated by said race.

1



Therefore, the Town of Parker upon motion duly made and passed at a regularly scheduled Council Meeting of the Common Council of the Town of Parker, states as follows:

1. That the draft resource management plan and environmental impact statement take into account the presence of the area annexed by the Town.

2. That the plan be revised in such a way as to circumvent the Town.

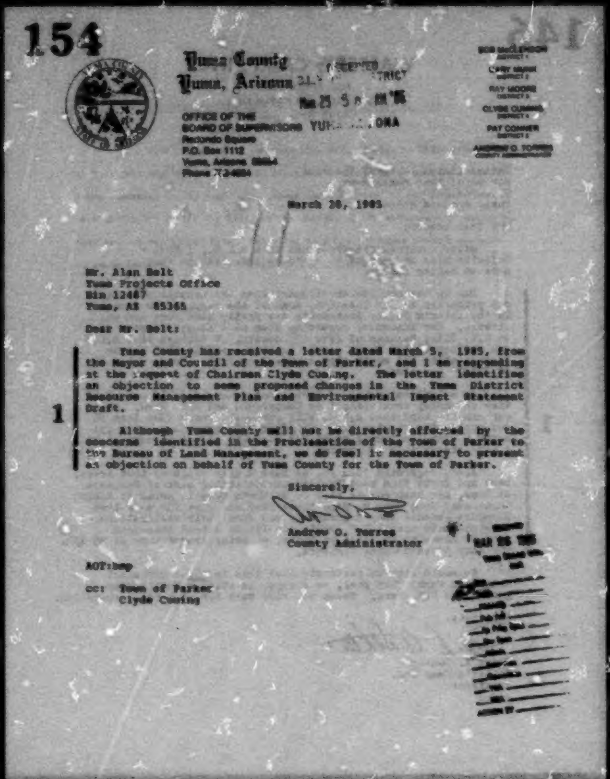
3. That the Town go on formal record with the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management as wholeheartedly endorsing the Score 400 off-road race over BLM lands and existing course site since the Town is a benefactor as is the area in general, as to the economic benefits generated by said race.

4. That copies of this Proclamation be sent by the Town Manager to those officials who might have some input with regard to helping the Town grow and prosper and that they be encouraged as well as all others interested, to make comments on the draft resource management plan and environmental impact statement as requested in said plan and that comments be made in a timely fashion, namely on or before April 19, 1985.

Dated this 5th day of March, 1985.

Sam Davis, Mayor

2



154

Yuma County
Yuma, Arizona

OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Recondo Square
P.O. Box 1112
Yuma, Arizona 85364
Phone 782-4534

RECEIVED
MAR 25 1985
YUMA, ARIZONA

[illegible]
DISTRICT 1
[illegible]
DISTRICT 2
RAY MOORE
DISTRICT 3
CLYDE CUMING
DISTRICT 4
PAT CONNER
DISTRICT 5
ANDREW O. TORRES
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

March 20, 1985

Mr. Alan Belt
Yuma Projects Office
Bin 12487
Yuma, AZ 85365

Dear Mr. Belt:

1 Yuma County has received a letter dated March 5, 1985, from the Mayor and Council of the Town of Parker, and I am responding at the request of Chairman Clyde Cuming. The letter identifies an objection to some proposed changes in the Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement Draft.

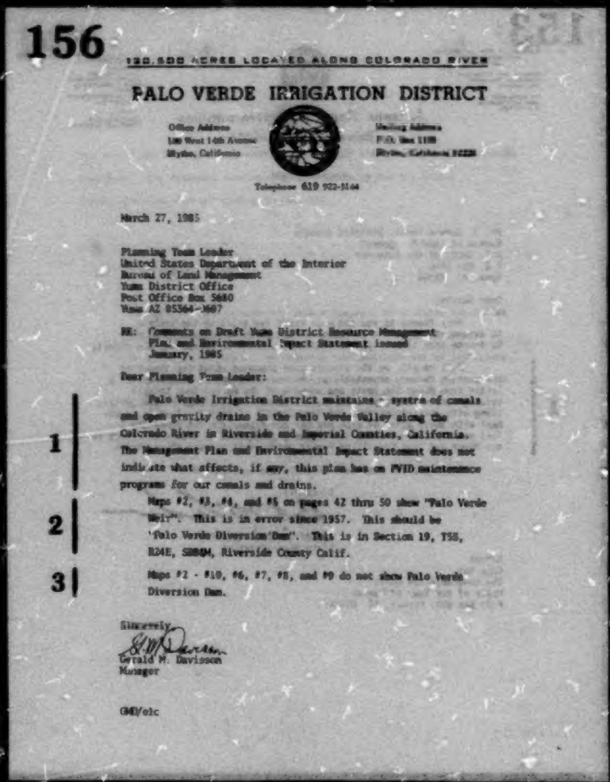
Although Yuma County will not be directly affected by the concerns identified in the Proclamation of the Town of Parker to the Bureau of Land Management, we do feel it necessary to present an objection on behalf of Yuma County for the Town of Parker.

Sincerely,

Andrew O. Torres
County Administrator

AOT:bmp

cc: Town of Parker
Clyde Cuming



156

120,500 ACRES LOCATED ALONG COLORADO RIVER

PALO VERDE IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Office Address
180 West 14th Avenue
Blythe, California

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 1159
Blythe, California 92226

Telephone 619 922-3144

March 27, 1985

Planning Team Leader
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
Post Office Box 5680
Yuma AZ 85364-3607

RE: Comments on Draft Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement issued January, 1985

Dear Planning Team Leader:

1 Palo Verde Irrigation District maintains a system of canals and open gravity drains in the Palo Verde Valley along the Colorado River in Riverside and Imperial Counties, California. The Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement does not indicate what affects, if any, this plan has on PVID maintenance programs for our canals and drains.

2 Maps #2, #3, #4, and #5 on pages 42 thru 50 show "Palo Verde Weir". This is in error since 1957. This should be "Palo Verde Diversion Dam". This is in Section 19, T5S, R24E, SBB&M, Riverside County Calif.

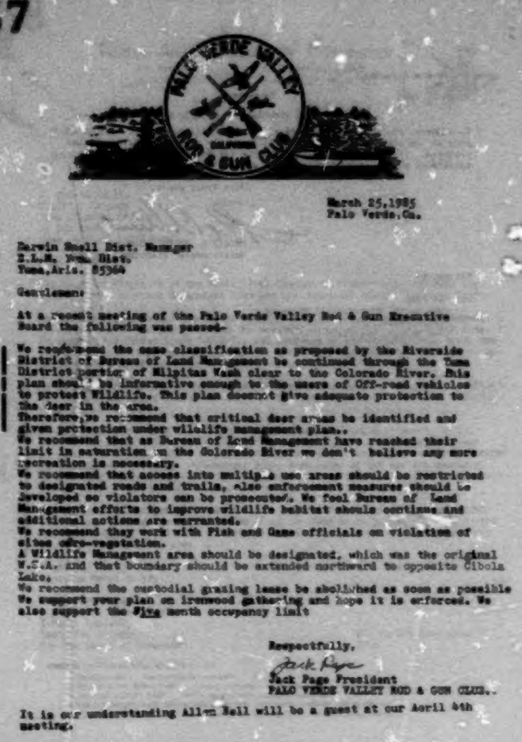
3 Maps #2 - #10, #6, #7, #8, and #9 do not show Palo Verde Diversion Dam.

Sincerely,

Gerald M. Davisson
Manager

GMD/elc

157



PALO VERDE VALLEY
ROD & GUN CLUB

March 25,1985
Palo Verde,Ca.

Darwin Snell Dist. Manager
B.L.M. Yuma Dist.
Yuma,Ariz. 85364

Gentlemen:

At a recent meeting of the Palo Verde Valley Rod & Gun Executive Board the following was passed-

1 We recommend the same classification as proposed by the Riverside District of Bureau of Land Management be continued through the Yuma District portion of Milpitas Wash clear to the Colorado River. This
2 plan should be informative enough to the users of Off-road vehicles to protect Wildlife. This plan doesnt give adequate protection to
3 the deer in the area.
Therefore,we recommend that critical deer areas be identified and given protection under wildlife management plan..
We recommend that as Bureau of Land Management have reached their limit in saturation on the Colorado River we don't believe any more recreation is necessary.
We recommend that access into multiple use areas should be restricted to designated roads and trails, also enforcement measures should be developed so violators can be prosecuted. We feel Bureau of Land Management efforts to improve wildlife habitat should continue and additional actions are warranted.
We recommend they work with Fish and Game officials on violation of sites and vegetation.
A Wildlife Management area should be designated, which was the original W.S.A. and that boundary should be extended northward to opposite Cibola Lake.
We recommend the custodial grazing lease be abolished as soon as possible
We support your plan on ironwood gathering and hope it is enforced. We also support the five month occupancy limit

Respectfully,
Jack Page
Jack Page President
PALO VERDE VALLEY ROD & GUN CLUB..

It is our understanding Allen Bell will be a guest at our April 4th meeting.

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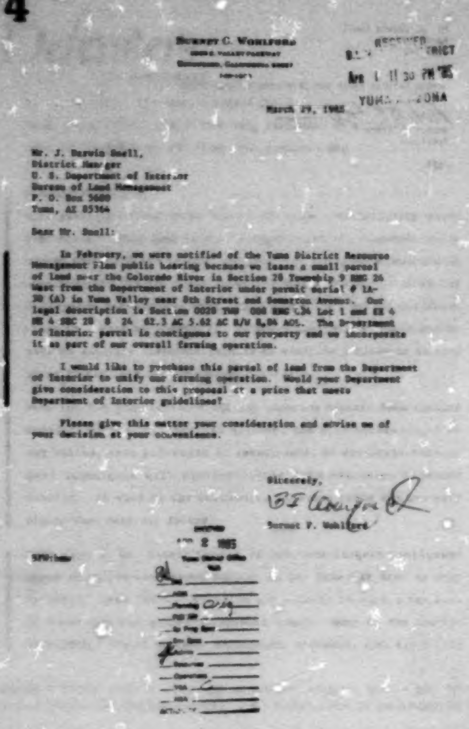

Burnet C. Wohlford

RECEIVED
BLM YUMA DISTRICT
Apr 1 11 30 PM '85
YUMA, ARIZONA

March 29, 1985

Mr. J. Darwin Snell,
District Manager
U. S. Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 5680
Yuma, AZ 85364

Dear Mr. Snell:

1 In February, we were notified of the Yuma District Resource Management Plan public hearing because we lease a small parcel of land near the Colorado River in Section 28 Township 9 RNG 24 West from the Department of Interior under permit serial # 1A-30 (A) in Yuma Valley near 8th Street and Somerton Avenue. Our legal description is Section 0028 TWN 008 RNG 024 Lot 1 and SE 4 NE 4 SEC 28 8 24 62.3 AC 5.62 AC R/W 8.04 AOL. The Department of Interior parcel is contiguous to our property and we incorporate it as part of our overall farming operation.

I would like to purchase this parcel of land from the Department of Interior to unify our farming operation. Would your Department give consideration to this proposal at a price that meets Department of Interior guidelines?

Please give this matter your consideration and advise me of your decision at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Burnet F. Wohlford

BFW:bmw

RECEIVED
APR 2 1985
Yuma District Office

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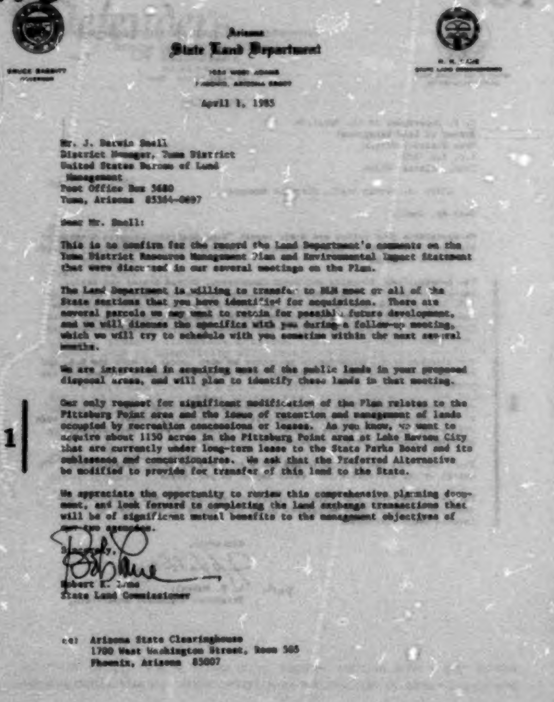

Arizona
State Land Department

April 1, 1985

Mr. J. Darwin Snell
District Manager, Yuma District
United States Bureau of Land
 Management
Post Office Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

Dear Mr. Snell:

This is to confirm for the record the Land Department's comments on the Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement that were discussed in our several meetings on the Plan.

The Land Department is willing to transfer to BLM most or all of the State sections that you have identified for acquisition. There are several parcels we may want to retain for possible future development, and we will discuss the specifics with you during a follow-up meeting, which we will try to schedule with you sometime within the next several months.

We are interested in acquiring most of the public lands in your proposed disposal areas, and will plan to identify these lands in that meeting.

1 Our only request for significant modification of the Plan relates to the Pittsburg Point area and the issue of retention and management of lands occupied by recreation concessions or leases. As you know, we want to acquire about 1150 acres in the Pittsburg Point area at Lake Havasu City that are currently under long-term lease to the State Parks Board and its sublessees and concessionaires. We ask that the Preferred Alternative be modified to provide for transfer of this land to the State.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this comprehensive planning document, and look forward to completing the land exchange transactions that will be of significant mutual benefits to the management objectives of our two agencies.

Sincerely,
Bob Lane
Robert K. Lane
State Land Commissioner

cc: Arizona State Clearinghouse
1700 West Washington Street, Room 505
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

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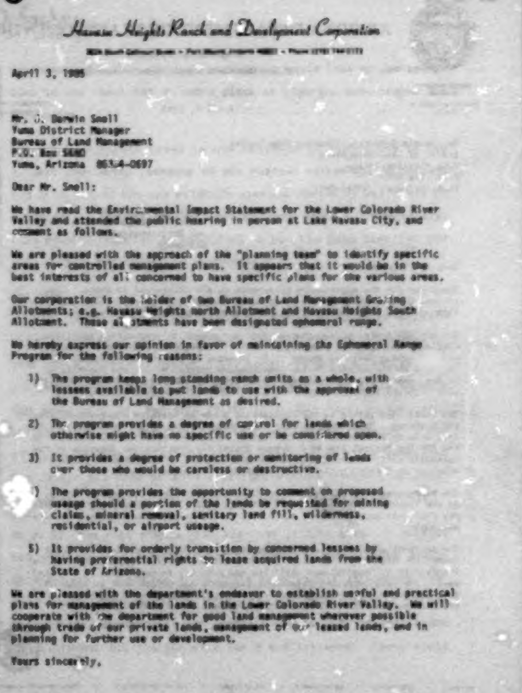


Havasu Heights Ranch and Development Corporation

April 3, 1985

Mr. J. Darwin Snell
Yuma District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

Dear Mr. Snell:

We have read the Environmental Impact Statement for the Lower Colorado River Valley and attended the public hearing in person at Lake Havasu City, and comment as follows.

We are pleased with the approach of the "planning team" to identify specific areas for controlled management plans. It appears that it would be in the best interests of all concerned to have specific plans for the various areas.

Our corporation is the holder of two Bureau of Land Management Grazing Allotments; e.g. Havasu Heights North Allotment and Havasu Heights South Allotment. These allotments have been designated ephemeral range.

We hereby express our opinion in favor of maintaining the Ephemeral Range Program for the following reasons:

1) The program keeps long standing ranch units as a whole, with lessees available to put lands to use with the approval of the Bureau of Land Management as desired.

2) The program provides a degree of control for lands which otherwise might have no specific use or be considered open.

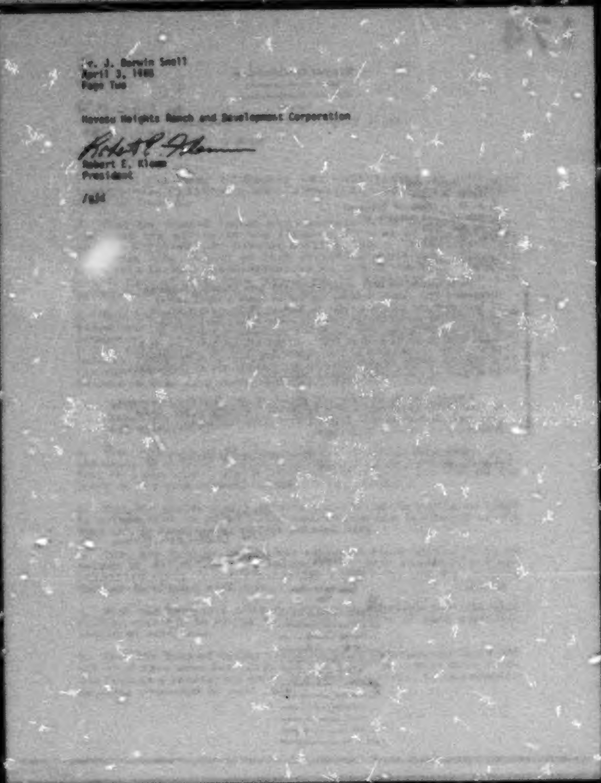
3) It provides a degree of protection or monitoring of lands over those who would be careless or destructive.

4) The program provides the opportunity to comment on proposed useage should a portion of the lands be requested for mining claims, mineral removal, sanitary land fill, wilderness, residential, or airport useage.

5) It provides for orderly transition by concerned lessees by having preferential rights to lease acquired lands from the State of Arizona.

We are pleased with the department's endeavor to establish useful and practical plans for management of the lands in the Lower Colorado River Valley. We will cooperate with the department for good land management wherever possible through trade of our private lands, management of our leased lands, and in planning for further use or development.

Yours sincerely,

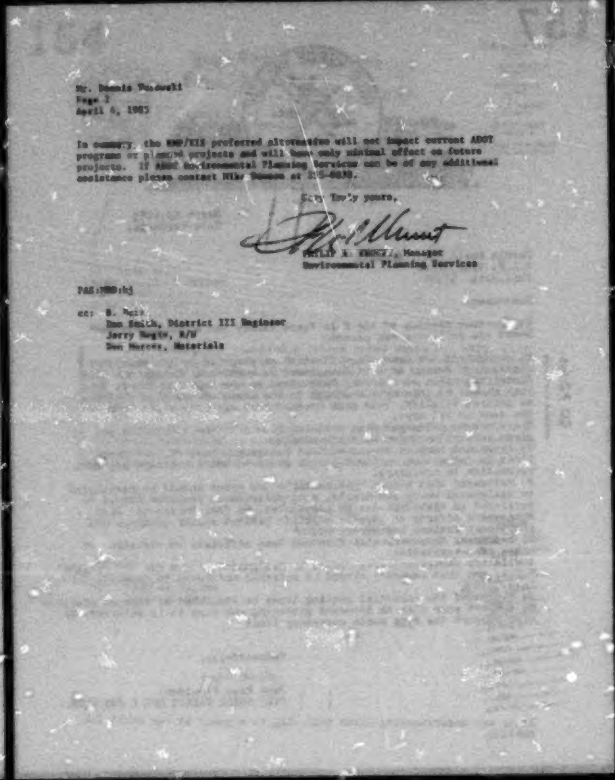


Mr. J. Darwin Snell
April 3, 1985
Page Two

Havasu Heights Ranch and Development Corporation

Robert E. Klemm
President

/gjd



Mr. Dennis Turowski
Page 2
April 4, 1985

In summary, the RMP/EIS preferred alternative will not impact current ADOT programs or planned projects and will have only minimal effect on future projects. If ADOT Environmental Planning Services can be of any additional assistance please contact Mike Dawson at 255-8838.

Very truly yours,

PHILIP A. [illegible], Manager
Environmental Planning Services

PAS:MBD:bj

cc: B. [illegible]
Don Smith, District III Engineer
Jerry [illegible], R/W
Don [illegible], Materials

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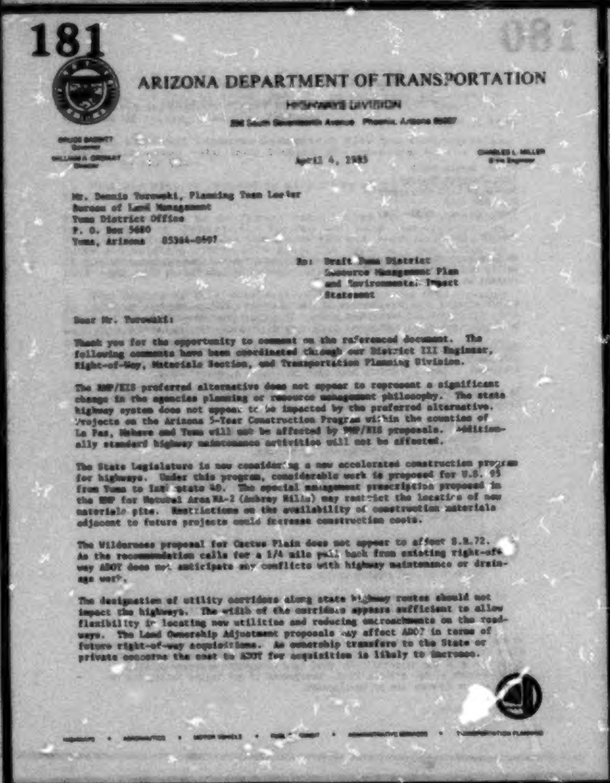

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
HIGHWAYS DIVISION
206 South Seventeenth Avenue Phoenix, Arizona 85007

BRUCE BABBITT
Governor
WILLIAM A. ORDWAY
Director

CHARLES L. MILLER
State Engineer

April 4, 1985

Mr. Dennis Turowski, Planning Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P. O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0597

Re: Draft Yuma District
Resource Management Plan
and Environmental Impact
Statement

Dear Mr. Turowski:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the referenced document. The following comments have been coordinated through our District III Engineer, Right-of-Way, Materials Section, and Transportation Planning Division.

The RMP/EIS preferred alternative does not appear to represent a significant change in the agencies planning or resource management philosophy. The state highway system does not appear to be impacted by the preferred alternative. Projects on the Arizona 5-Year Construction Program within the counties of La Paz, Mohave and Yuma will not be affected by RMP/EIS proposals. Additionally standard highway maintenance activities will not be affected.

The State Legislature is now considering a new accelerated construction program for highways. Under this program, considerable work is proposed for U.S. 95 from Yuma to Interstate 40. The special management prescription proposed in the RMP for Natural Area NA-2 (Aubrey Hills) may restrict the location of new materials pits. Restrictions on the availability of construction materials adjacent to future projects could increase construction costs.

The Wilderness proposal for Cactus Plain does not appear to affect S.R.72. As the recommendation calls for a 1/4 mile pull back from existing right-of-way ADOT does not anticipate any conflicts with highway maintenance or drainage work.

The designation of utility corridors along state highway routes should not impact the highways. The width of the corridors appears sufficient to allow flexibility in locating new utilities and reducing encroachments on the roadways. The Land Ownership Adjustment proposals may affect ADOT in terms of future right-of-way acquisitions. As ownership transfers to the State or private concerns the cost to ADOT for acquisition is likely to increase.

HIGHWAYS • AERONAUTICS • MOTOR VEHICLE • PUBLIC TRANSIT • ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES • TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

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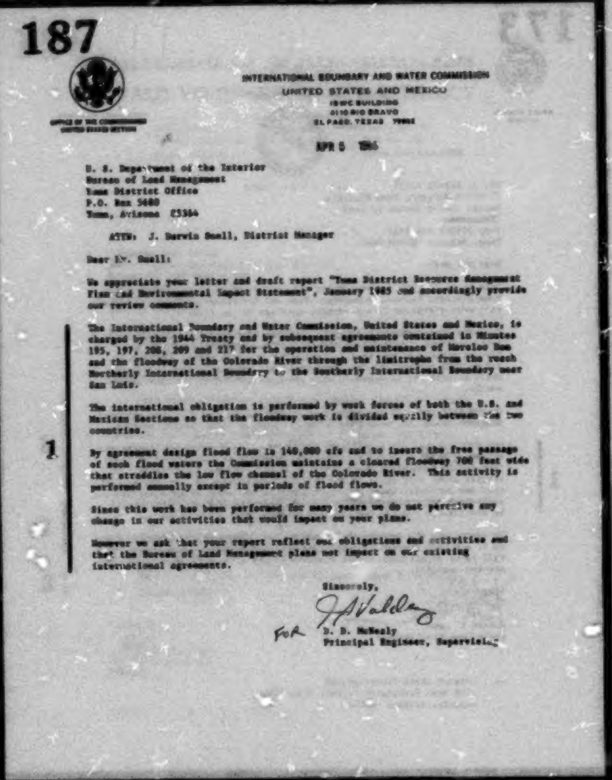


OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
UNITED STATES SECTION

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO
IBWC BUILDING
4110 RIO BRAVO
EL PASO, TEXAS 79902

APR 5 1985

U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364

ATTN: J. Darwin Snell, District Manager

Dear Mr. Snell:

We appreciate your letter and draft report "Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement", January 1985 and accordingly provide our review comments.

The International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico, is charged by the 1944 Treaty and by subsequent agreements contained in Minutes 195, 197, 206, 209 and 217 for the operation and maintenance of Morelos Dam and the floodway of the Colorado River through the limitrophe from the reach Northerly International Boundary to the Southerly International Boundary near San Luis.

The international obligation is performed by work forces of both the U.S. and Mexican Sections so that the floodway work is divided equally between the two countries.

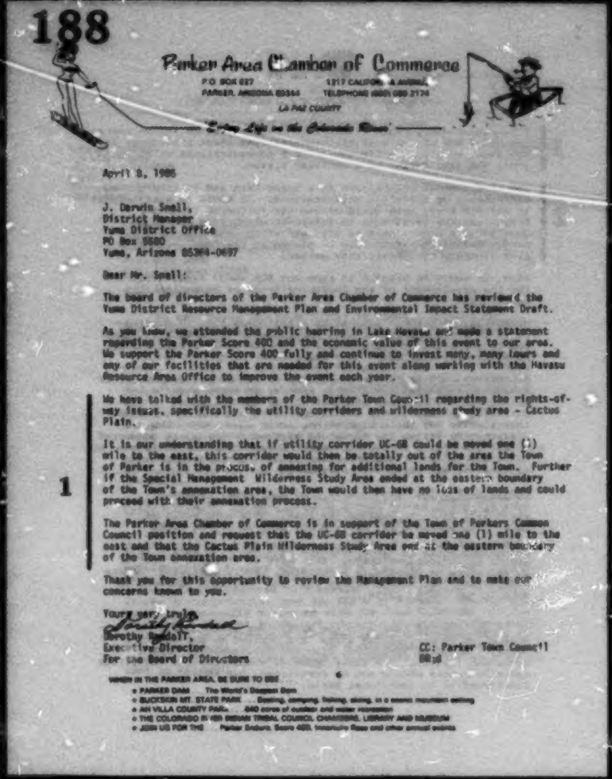
1 By agreement design flood flow is 140,000 cfs and to insure the free passage of such flood waters the Commission maintains a cleared floodway 700 feet wide that straddles the low flow channel of the Colorado River. This activity is performed annually except in periods of flood flows.

Since this work has been performed for many years we do not perceive any change in our activities that would impact on your plans.

However we ask that your report reflect our obligations and activities and that the Bureau of Land Management plans not impact on our existing international agreements.

Sincerely,

FoR D. D. McNealy
Principal Engineer, Supervising



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Parker Area Chamber of Commerce
P.O. BOX 627
PARKER, ARIZONA 85344
1217 CALIFORNIA AVENUE
TELEPHONE (602) 669-2174
LA PAZ COUNTY
"Enjoy Life on the Colorado River"

April 8, 1985

J. Darwin Snell,
District Manager
Yuma District Office
PO Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

Dear Mr. Snell:

The board of directors of the Parker Area Chamber of Commerce has reviewed the Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement Draft.

As you know, we attended the public hearing in Lake Havasu and made a statement regarding the Parker Score 400 and the economic value of this event to our area. We support the Parker Score 400 fully and continue to invest many, many hours and any of our facilities that are needed for this event along working with the Havasu Resource Area Office to improve the event each year.

1 We have talked with the members of the Parker Town Council regarding the rights-of-way issues, specifically the utility corridors and wilderness study area - Cactus Plain.

It is our understanding that if utility corridor UC-6B could be moved one (1) mile to the east, this corridor would then be totally out of the area the Town of Parker is in the process of annexing for additional lands for the Town. Further if the Special Management Wilderness Study Area ended at the eastern boundary of the Town's annexation area, the Town would then have no loss of lands and could proceed with their annexation process.

The Parker Area Chamber of Commerce is in support of the Town of Parkers Common Council position and request that the UC-6B corridor be moved one (1) mile to the east and that the Cactus Plain Wilderness Study Area end at the eastern boundary of the Town annexation area.

Thank you for this opportunity to review the Management Plan and to make our concerns known to you.

Yours very truly,
Dorothy Randall
Dorothy Randall,
Executive Director
For the Board of Directors

CC: Parker Town Council
DR:d

WHEN IN THE PARKER AREA, BE SURE TO SEE:
- PARKER DAM ... The World's Deepest Dam
- BUCKSKIN MT. STATE PARK ... Boating, camping, fishing, skiing, in a scenic mountain setting
- LA PAZ COUNTY PARK ... 640 acres of outdoor and water recreation
- THE COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBAL COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LIBRARY AND MUSEUM
- JOIN US FOR THE ... Parker Enduro, Score 400, Intertube Race and other annual events

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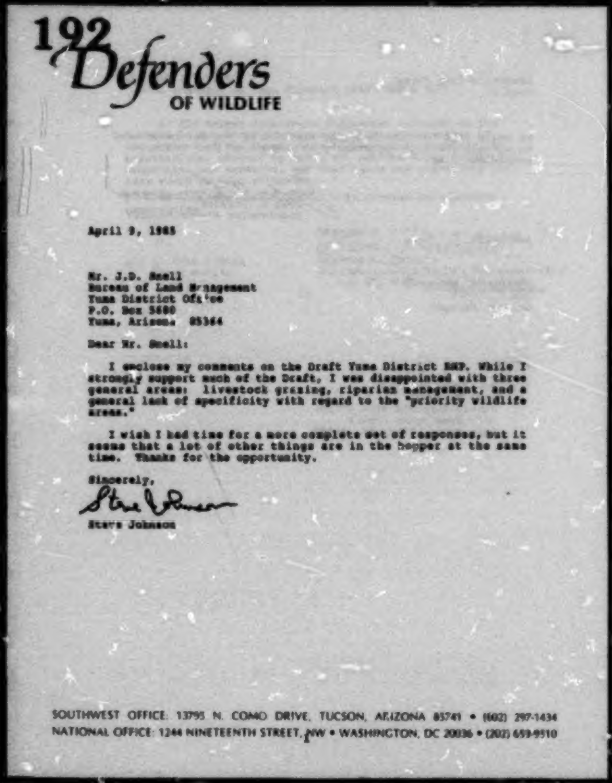

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Defenders
OF WILDLIFE

April 9, 1985

Mr. J.D. Snell
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364

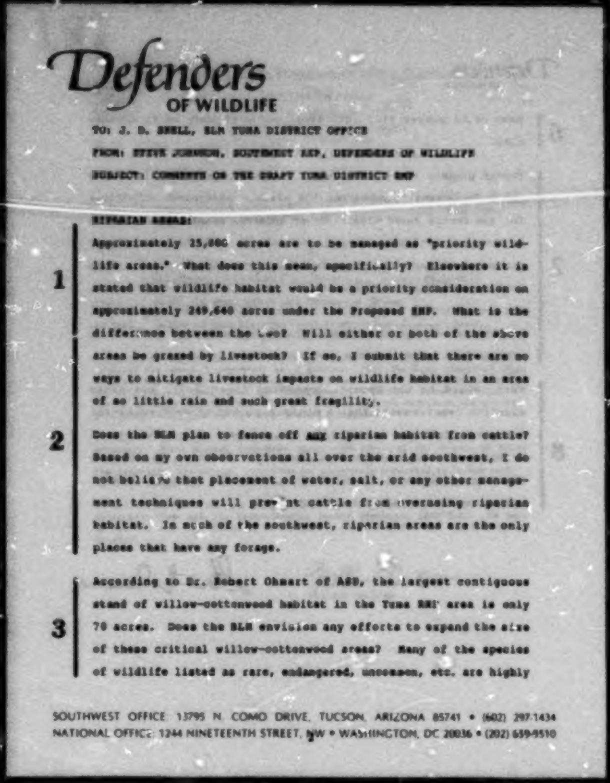
Dear Mr. Snell:

I enclose my comments on the Draft Yuma District RMP. While I strongly support much of the Draft, I was disappointed with three general areas: livestock grazing, riparian management, and a general lack of specificity with regard to the "priority wildlife areas."

I wish I had time for a more complete set of responses, but it seems that a lot of other things are in the hopper at the same time. Thanks for the opportunity.

Sincerely,
Steve Johnson
Steve Johnson

SOUTHWEST OFFICE: 13795 N. COMO DRIVE, TUCSON, ARIZONA 85741 • (602) 297-1434
NATIONAL OFFICE: 1244 NINETEENTH STREET, NW • WASHINGTON, DC 20036 • (202) 659-9510



Defenders
OF WILDLIFE

TO: J. D. SNELL, BLM YUMA DISTRICT OFFICE

FROM: STEVE JOHNSON, SOUTHWEST REP, DEFENDERS OF WILDLIFE

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON THE DRAFT YUMA DISTRICT RMP

RIPARIAN AREAS:

1 Approximately 25,000 acres are to be managed as "priority wildlife areas." What does this mean, specifically? Elsewhere it is stated that wildlife habitat would be a priority consideration on approximately 249,640 acres under the Proposed RMP. What is the difference between the two? Will either or both of the above areas be grazed by livestock? If so, I submit that there are no ways to mitigate livestock impacts on wildlife habitat in an area of so little rain and such great fragility.

2 Does the BLM plan to fence off any riparian habitat from cattle? Based on my own observations all over the arid southwest, I do not believe that placement of water, salt, or any other management techniques will prevent cattle from overusing riparian habitat. In much of the southwest, riparian areas are the only places that have any forage.

3 According to Dr. Robert Ohmart of ASU, the largest contiguous stand of willow-cottonwood habitat in the Yuma RMP area is only 70 acres. Does the BLM envision any efforts to expand the size of these critical willow-cottonwood areas? Many of the species of wildlife listed as rare, endangered, uncommon, etc. are highly

SOUTHWEST OFFICE: 13795 N. COMO DRIVE, TUCSON, ARIZONA 85741 • (602) 297-1434
NATIONAL OFFICE: 1244 NINETEENTH STREET, NW • WASHINGTON, DC 20036 • (202) 659-9510

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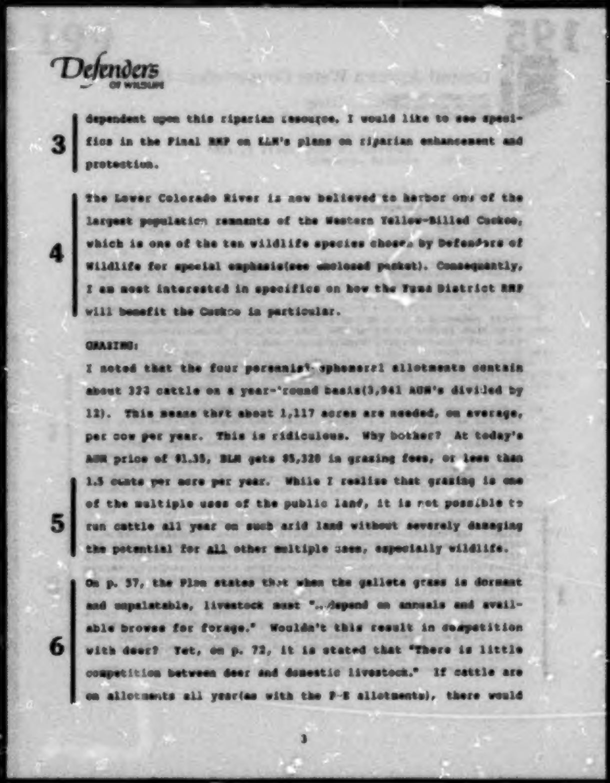

Defenders
OF WILDLIFE

3 dependent upon this riparian resource. I would like to see specifics in the Final RMP on BLM's plans on riparian enhancement and protection.

4 The Lower Colorado River is now believed to harbor one of the largest population remnants of the Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo, which is one of the ten wildlife species chosen by Defenders of Wildlife for special emphasis(see enclosed packet). Consequently, I am most interested in specifics on how the Yuma District RMP will benefit the Cuckoo in particular.

GRAZING:

I noted that the four perennial-ephemeral allotments contain about 323 cattle on a year-'round basis(3,941 AUM's divided by 12). This means that about 1,117 acres are needed, on average, per cow per year. This is ridiculous. Why bother? At today's AUM price of $1.35, BLM gets $5,320 in grazing fees, or less than

5 1.5 cents per acre per year. While I realize that grazing is one of the multiple uses of the public land, it is not possible to run cattle all year on such arid land without severely damaging the potential for all other multiple uses, especially wildlife.

6 On p. 37, the Plan states that when the galleta grass is dormant and unpalatable, livestock must "...depend on annuals and available browse for forage." Wouldn't this result in competition with deer? Yet, on p. 72, it is stated that "There is little competition between deer and domestic livestock." If cattle are on allotments all year(as with the P-E allotments), there would

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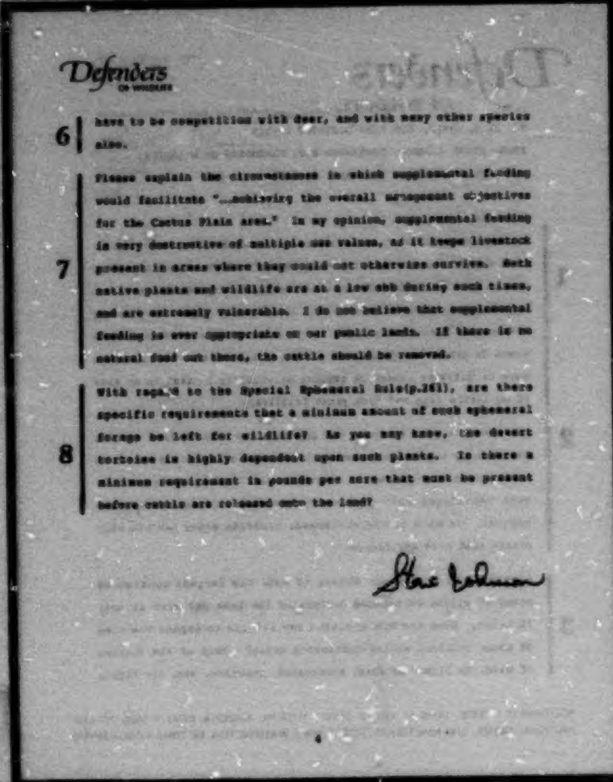

Defenders
OF WILDLIFE

6 have to be competition with deer, and with many other species also.

7 Please explain the circumstances in which supplemental feeding would facilitate "...achieving the overall management objectives for the Cactus Plain area." In my opinion, supplemental feeding is very destructive of multiple use values, as it keeps livestock present in areas where they could not otherwise survive. Both native plants and wildlife are at a low ebb during such times, and are extremely vulnerable. I do not believe that supplemental feeding is ever appropriate on our public lands. If there is no natural food out there, the cattle should be removed.

8 With regard to the Special Ephemeral Rule(p.261), are there specific requirements that a minimum amount of such ephemeral forage be left for wildlife? As you may know, the desert tortoise is highly dependent upon such plants. Is there a minimum requirement in pounds per acre that must be present before cattle are released onto the land?

Steve Johnson

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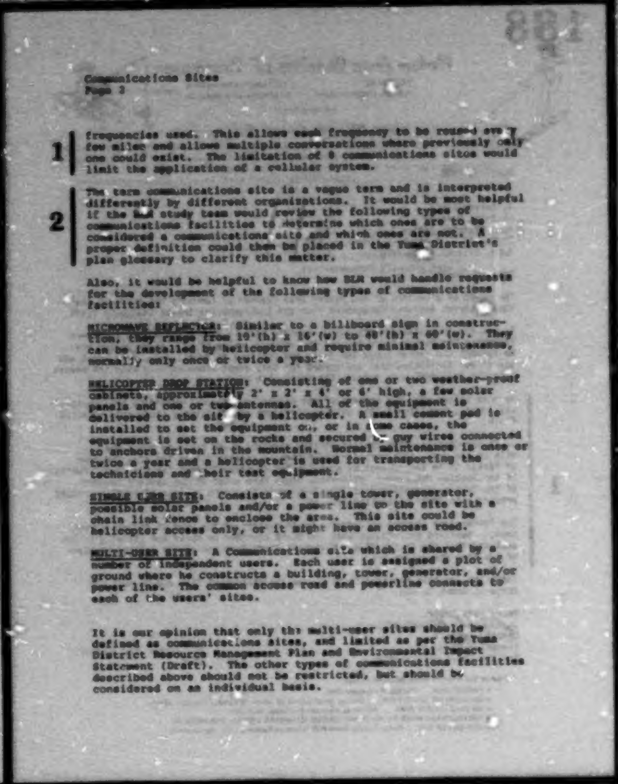


Communications Sites
Page 2

1 frequencies used. This allows each frequency to be reused every few miles and allows multiple conversations where previously only one could exist. The limitation of 8 communications sites would limit the application of a cellular system.

2 The term communications site is a vague term and is interpreted differently by different organizations. It would be most helpful if the BLM study team would review the following types of communications facilities to determine which ones are to be considered a communications site and which ones are not. A proper definition could then be placed in the Yuma District's plan glossary to clarify this matter.

Also, it would be helpful to know how BLM would handle requests for the development of the following types of communications facilities:

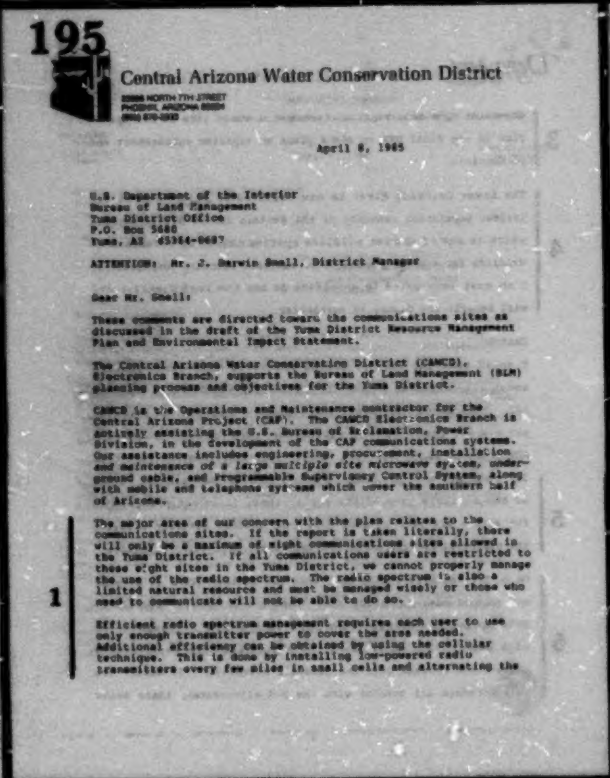
MICROWAVE REFLECTOR: Similar to a billboard sign in construction, they range from 10'(h) x 16'(w) to 40'(h) x 60'(w). They can be installed by helicopter and require minimal maintenance, normally only once or twice a year.

HELICOPTER DROP STATION: Consisting of one or two weather-proof cabinets, approximately 2' x 2' x 4' or 6' high, a few solar panels and one or two antennas. All of the equipment is delivered to the site by a helicopter. A small cement pad is installed to set the equipment on, or in some cases, the equipment is set on the rocks and secured by guy wires connected to anchors driven in the mountain. Normal maintenance is once or twice a year and a helicopter is used for transporting the technicians and their test equipment.

SINGLE USER SITE: Consists of a single tower, generator, possible solar panels and/or a power line to the site with a chain link fence to enclose the area. This site could be helicopter access only, or it might have an access road.

MULTI-USER SITE: A Communications site which is shared by a number of independent users. Each user is assigned a plot of ground where he constructs a building, tower, generator, and/or power line. The common access road and powerline connects to each of the users' sites.

It is our opinion that only the multi-user sites should be defined as communications sites, and limited as per the Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (Draft). The other types of communications facilities described above should not be restricted, but should be considered on an individual basis.



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Central Arizona Water Conservation District
23636 NORTH 7TH STREET
PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85024
(602) 870-2333

April 8, 1985

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, AZ 85364-0687

ATTENTION: Mr. J. Darwin Snell, District Manager

Dear Mr. Snell:

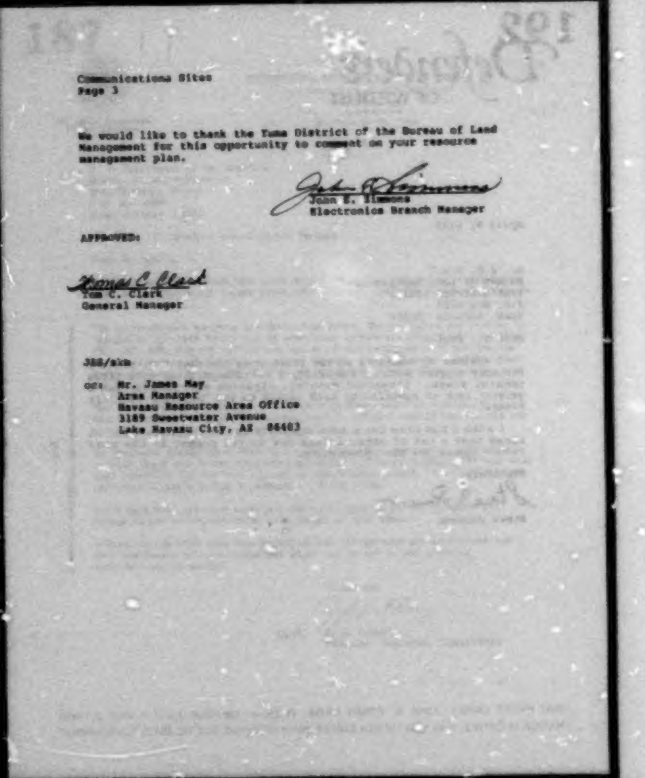
These comments are directed toward the communications sites as discussed in the draft of the Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

The Central Arizona Water Conservation District (CAWCD), Electronics Branch, supports the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) planning process and objectives for the Yuma District.

CAWCD is the Operations and Maintenance contractor for the Central Arizona Project (CAP). The CAWCD Electronics Branch is actively assisting the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Power Division, in the development of the CAP communications systems. Our assistance includes engineering, procurement, installation and maintenance of a large multiple site microwave system, underground cable, and Programmable Supervisory Control System, along with mobile and telephone systems which cover the southern half of Arizona.

1 The major area of our concern with the plan relates to the communications sites. If the report is taken literally, there will only be a maximum of eight communications sites allowed in the Yuma District. If all communications users are restricted to these eight sites in the Yuma District, we cannot properly manage the use of the radio spectrum. The radio spectrum is also a limited natural resource and must be managed wisely or those who need to communicate will not be able to do so.

Efficient radio spectrum management requires each user to use only enough transmitter power to cover the area needed. Additional efficiency can be obtained by using the cellular technique. This is done by installing low-powered radio transmitters every few miles in small cells and alternating the



Communications Sites
Page 3

We would like to thank the Yuma District of the Bureau of Land Management for this opportunity to comment on your resource management plan.

John E. Simmons
John E. Simmons
Electronics Branch Manager

APPROVED:

Thomas C. Clark
Tom C. Clark
General Manager

JES/skm

cc: Mr. James May
Area Manager
Havasu Resource Area Office
3189 Sweetwater Avenue
Lake Havasu City, AZ 86403

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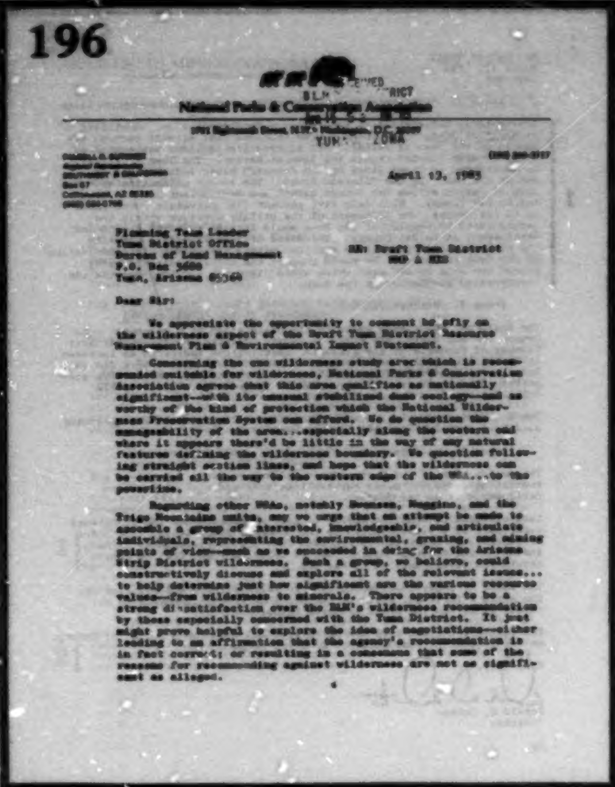

National Parks & Conservation Association
1701 Eighteenth Street, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20009

[illegible]
Box 67
Cottonwood, AZ 86326

RECEIVED
B.L.M. YUMA DISTRICT
YUMA, ARIZONA

April 13, 1985

Planning Team Leader
Yuma District Office
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364

RE: Draft Yuma District
RMP & EIS

Dear Sir:

We appreciate the opportunity to comment briefly on the wilderness aspect of the Draft Yuma District Resource Management Plan & Environmental Impact Statement.

Concerning the one wilderness study area which is recommended suitable for wilderness, National Parks & Conservation Association agrees that this area qualifies as nationally significant—with its unusual stabilized dune ecology—and as worthy of the kind of protection which the National Wilderness Preservation System can afford. We do question the manageability of the area...especially along the western end where it appears there'd be little in the way of any natural features defining the wilderness boundary. We question following straight section lines, and hope that the wilderness can be carried all the way to the western edge of the WSA...to the powerline.

Regarding other WSAs, notably [illegible], Muggins, and the Trigo Mountains units, may we urge that an attempt be made to assemble a group of interested, knowledgeable, and articulate individuals, representing the environmental, grazing, and mining points of view—such as we succeeded in doing for the Arizona Strip District wilderness. Such a group, we believe, could constructively discuss and explore all of the relevant issues... to help determine just how significant are the various resource values—from wilderness to minerals. There appears to be a strong dissatisfaction over the BLM's wilderness recommendation by those especially concerned with the Yuma District. It just might prove helpful to explore the idea of negotiations—either leading to an affirmation that the agency's recommendation is in fact correct; or resulting in a consensus that some of the reasons for recommending against wilderness are not as significant as alleged.

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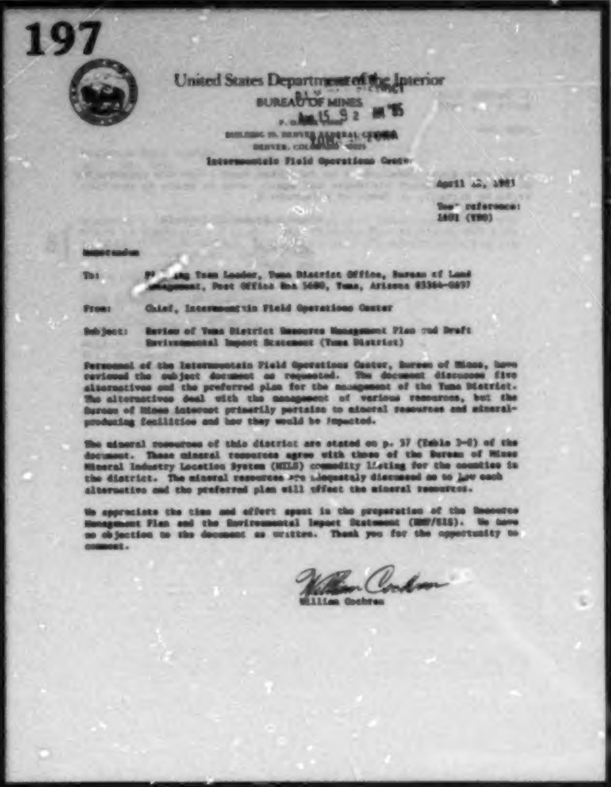


United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF MINES
P.O. BOX 25086
BUILDING 20, DENVER FEDERAL CENTER
DENVER, COLORADO 80225

B.L.M. YUMA DISTRICT
Apr 15 9 2 AM '85
YUMA

Intermountain Field Operations Center

April 12, 1985

Your reference:
1601 (YDO)

Memorandum

To: Planning Team Leader, Yuma District Office, Bureau of Land Management, Post Office Box 5680, Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

From: Chief, Intermountain Field Operations Center

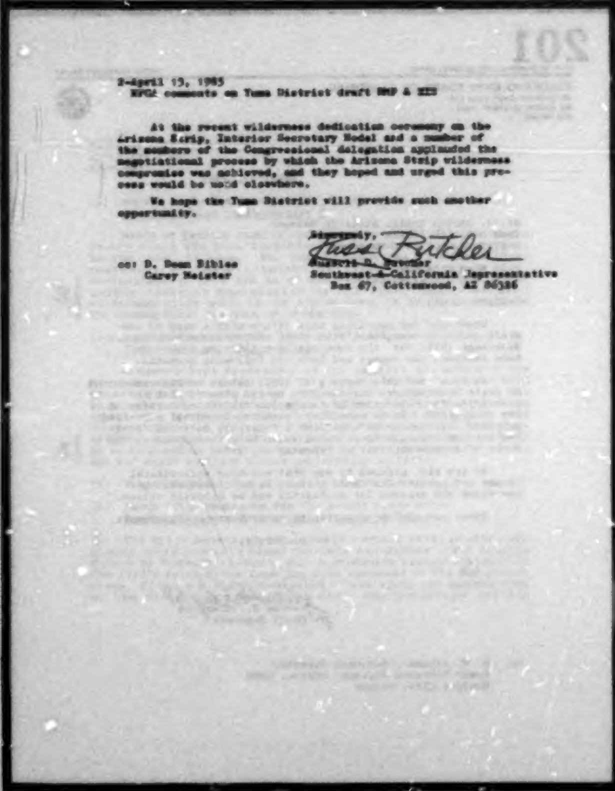
Subject: Review of Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Yuma District)

Personnel of the Intermountain Field Operations Center, Bureau of Mines, have reviewed the subject document as requested. The document discusses five alternatives and the preferred plan for the management of the Yuma District. The alternatives deal with the management of various resources, but the Bureau of Mines interest primarily pertains to mineral resources and mineral-producing facilities and how they would be impacted.

The mineral resources of this district are stated on p. 37 (Table 3-8) of the document. These mineral resources agree with those of the Bureau of Mines Mineral Industry Location System (MILS) commodity listing for the counties in the district. The mineral resources are adequately discussed as to how each alternative and the preferred plan will affect the mineral resources.

We appreciate the time and effort spent in the preparation of the Resource Management Plan and the Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS). We have no objection to the document as written. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

William Cochran
William Cochran



2-April 13, 1985
NPCA comments on Yuma District draft RMP & EIS

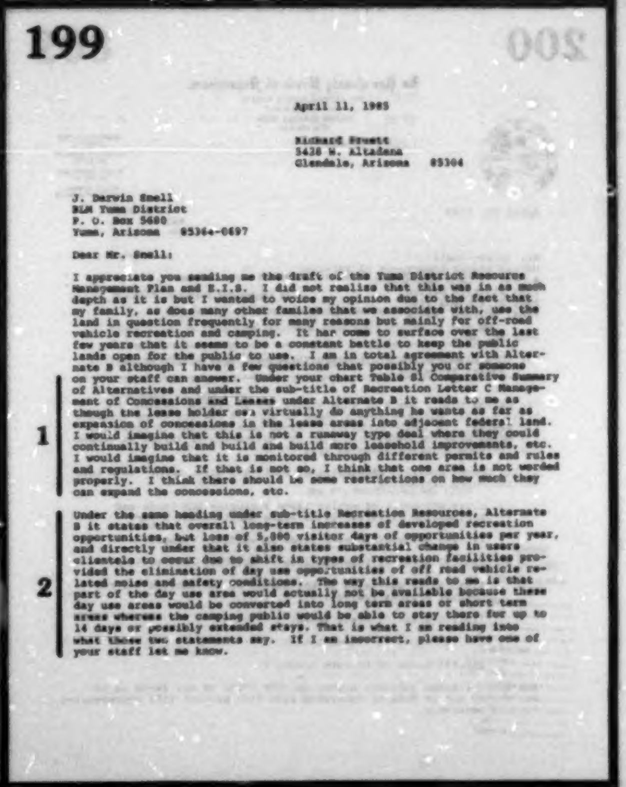
At the recent wilderness dedication ceremony on the Arizona Strip, Interior Secretary Hodel and a number of the members of the Congressional delegation applauded the negotiational process by which the Arizona Strip wilderness compromise was achieved, and they hoped and urged this process would be used elsewhere.

We hope the Yuma District will provide such another opportunity.

Sincerely,
Russ Butcher
Russell D. Butcher
Southwest-&-California Representative
Box 67, Cottonwood, AZ 86326

cc: D. Dean Bibles
Carey Meister

199



April 11, 1985

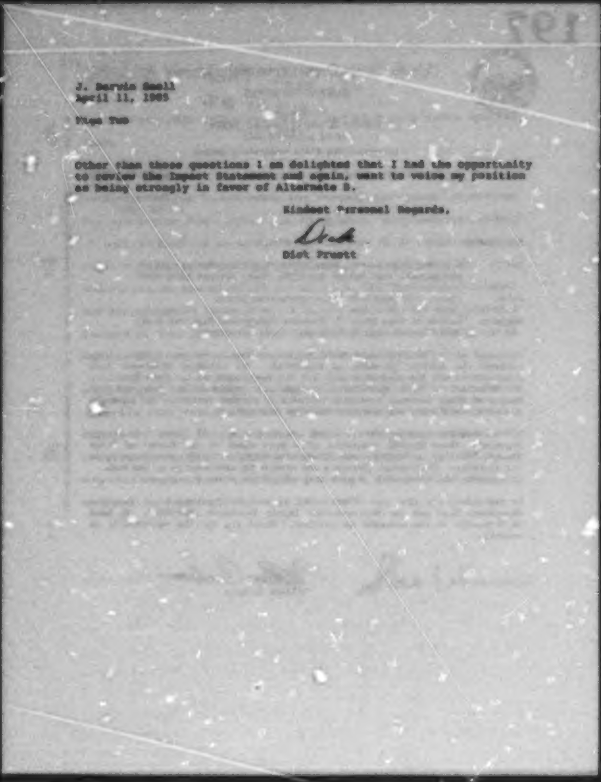
Richard Pruett
5428 W. Altadena
Glendale, Arizona 85304

J. Darwin Snell
BLM Yuma District
P. O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

Dear Mr. Snell:

I appreciate you sending me the draft of the Yuma District Resource Management Plan and E.I.S. I did not realize that this was in as much depth as it is but I wanted to voice my opinion due to the fact that my family, as does many other familes that we associate with, use the land in question frequently for many reasons but mainly for off-road vehicle recreation and camping. It har come to surface over the last few years that it seems to be a constant battle to keep the public lands open for the public to use. I am in total agreement with Alternate B although I have a few questions that possibly you or someone on your staff can answer. Under your chart Table S1 Comparative Summary of Alternatives and under the sub-title of Recreation Letter C Management of Concessions and Leases under Alternate B it reads to me as though the lease holder can virtually do anything he wants as far as expansion of concessions in the lease areas into adjacent federal land. I would imagine that this is not a runaway type deal where they could continually build and build and build more leasehold improvements, etc. I would imagine that it is monitored through different permits and rules and regulations. If that is not so, I think that one area is not worded properly. I think there should be some restrictions on how much they can expand the concessions, etc. 1

Under the same heading under sub-title Recreation Resources, Alternate B it states that overall long-term increases of developed recreation opportunities, but loss of 5,000 visitor days of opportunities per year, and directly under that it also states substantial change in users clientele to occur due to shift in types of recreation facilities provided the elimination of day use opportunities of off road vehicle related noise and safety conditions. The way this reads to me is that part of the day use area would actually not be available because these day use areas would be converted into long term areas or short term areas whereas the camping public would be able to stay there for up to 14 days or possibly extended stays. That is what I am reading into what these two statements say. If I am incorrect, please have one of your staff let me know. 2



J. Darwin Snell
April 11, 1985

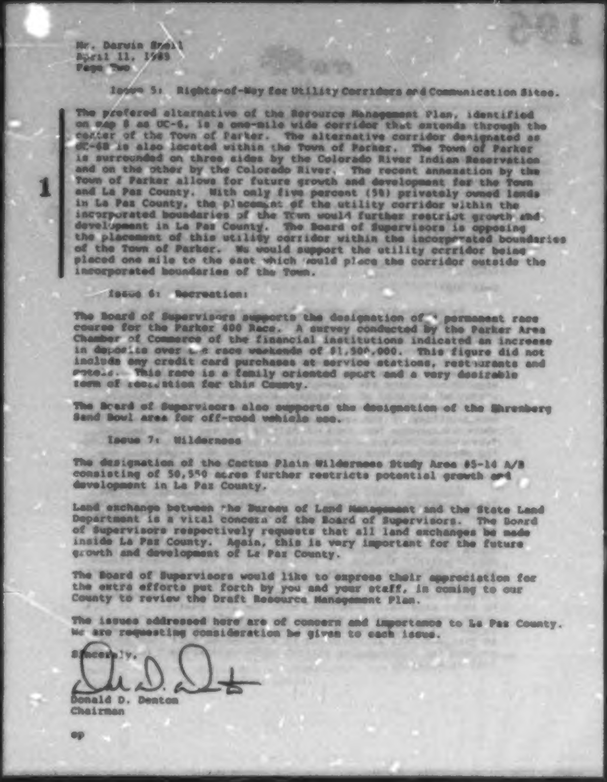
Page Two

Other than those questions I am delighted that I had the opportunity to review the Impact Statement and again, want to voice my position as being strongly in favor of Alternate B.

Kindest Personal Regards,

Dick

Dick Pruett



Mr. Darwin Snell
April 11, 1985
Page Two

Issue 5: Rights-of-Way for Utility Corridors and Communication Sites.

1 The prefered alternative of the Resource Management Plan, identified on map 8 as UC-6, is a one-mile wide corridor that extends through the center of the Town of Parker. The alternative corridor designated as UC-6B is also located within the Town of Parker. The Town of Parker is surrounded on three sides by the Colorado River Indian Reservation and on the other by the Colorado River. The recent annexation by the Town of Parker allows for future growth and development for the Town and La Paz County. With only five percent (5%) privately owned lands in La Paz County, the placement of the utility corridor within the incorporated boundaries of the Town would further restrict growth and development in La Paz County. The Board of Supervisors is opposing the placement of this utility corridor within the incorporated boundaries of the Town of Parker. We would support the utility corridor being placed one mile to the east which would place the corridor outside the incorporated boundaries of the Town.

Issue 6: Recreation:

The Board of Supervisors supports the designation of a permanent race course for the Parker 400 Race. A survey conducted by the Parker Area Chamber of Commerce of the financial institutions indicated an increase in deposits over the race weekends of $1,500,000. This figure did not include any credit card purchases at service stations, restaurants and motels. This race is a family oriented sport and a very desirable form of recreation for this County.

The Board of Supervisors also supports the designation of the Ehrenberg Sand Bowl area for off-road vehicle use.

Issue 7: Wilderness

The designation of the Cactus Plain Wilderness Study Area 05-14 A/B consisting of 50,550 acres further restricts potential growth and development in La Paz County.

Land exchange between the Bureau of Land Management and the State Land Department is a vital concern of the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors respectively requests that all land exchanges be made inside La Paz County. Again, this is very important for the future growth and development of La Paz County.

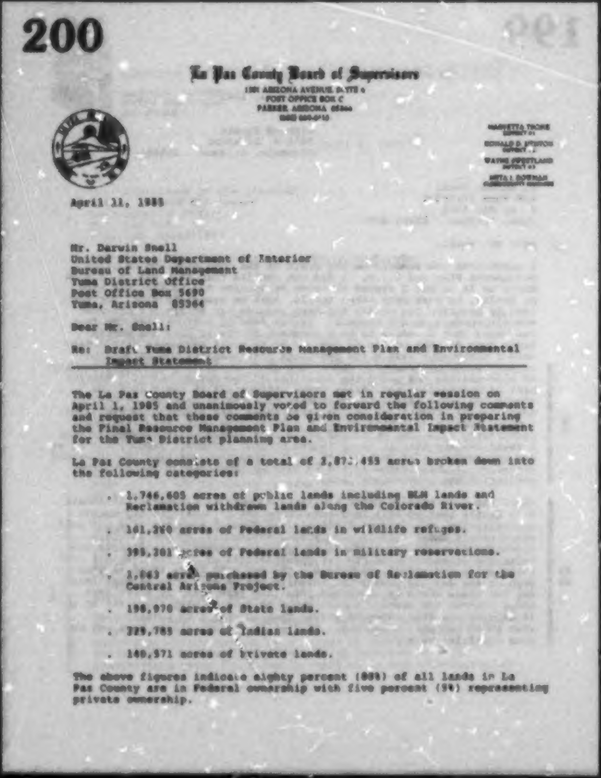
The Board of Supervisors would like to express their appreciation for the extra efforts put forth by you and your staff, in coming to our County to review the Draft Resource Management Plan.

The issues addressed here are of concern and importance to La Paz County. We are requesting consideration be given to each issue.

Sincerely,

Donald D. Denton
Donald D. Denton
Chairman

op



200

La Paz County Board of Supervisors
POST OFFICE BOX C
PARKER, ARIZONA

April 11, 1985

Mr. Darwin Snell
United States Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
Post Office Box 5690
Yuma, Arizona 85364

Dear Mr. Snell:

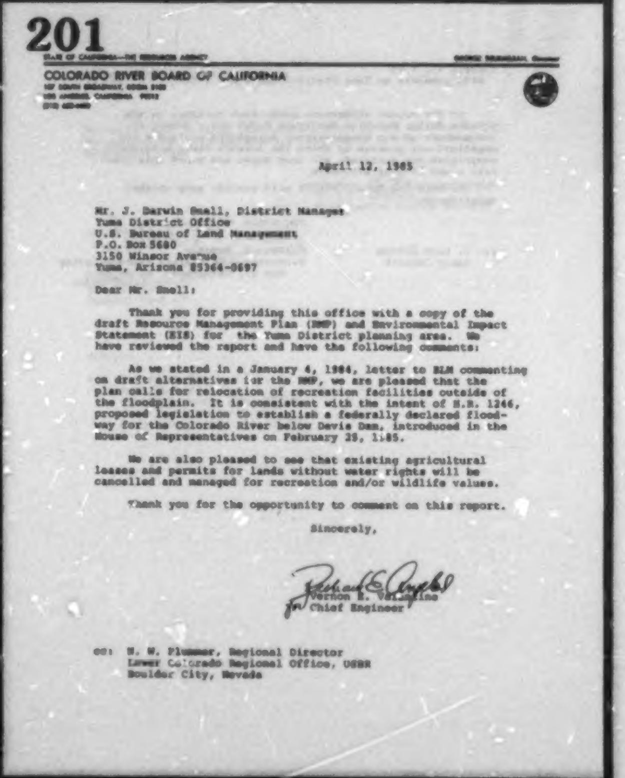
Re: Draft Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

The La Paz County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on April 1, 1985 and unanimously voted to forward the following comments and request that these comments be given consideration in preparing the Final Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Yuma District planning area.

La Paz County consists of a total of 2,973,455 acres broken down into the following categories:

- 1,746,605 acres of public lands including BLM lands and Reclamation withdrawn lands along the Colorado River.
- 161,260 acres of Federal lands in wildlife refuges.
- 395,301 acres of Federal lands in military reservations.
- 1,063 acres purchased by the Bureau of Reclamation for the Central Arizona Project.
- 198,970 acres of State lands.
- 329,785 acres of Indian lands.
- 140,571 acres of private lands.

The above figures indicate eighty percent (80%) of all lands in La Paz County are in Federal ownership with five percent (5%) representing private ownership.



201

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—THE RESOURCES AGENCY GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor
COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIFORNIA

April 12, 1985

Mr. J. Darwin Snell, District Manager
Yuma District Office
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 5680
3150 Winsor Avenue
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

Dear Mr. Snell:

Thank you for providing this office with a copy of the draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Yuma District planning area. We have reviewed the report and have the following comments:

As we stated in a January 4, 1984, letter to BLM commenting on draft alternatives for the RMP, we are pleased that the plan calls for relocation of recreation facilities outside of the floodplain. It is consistent with the intent of H.R. 1246, proposed legislation to establish a federally declared floodway for the Colorado River below Davis Dam, introduced in the House of Representatives on February 25, 1985.

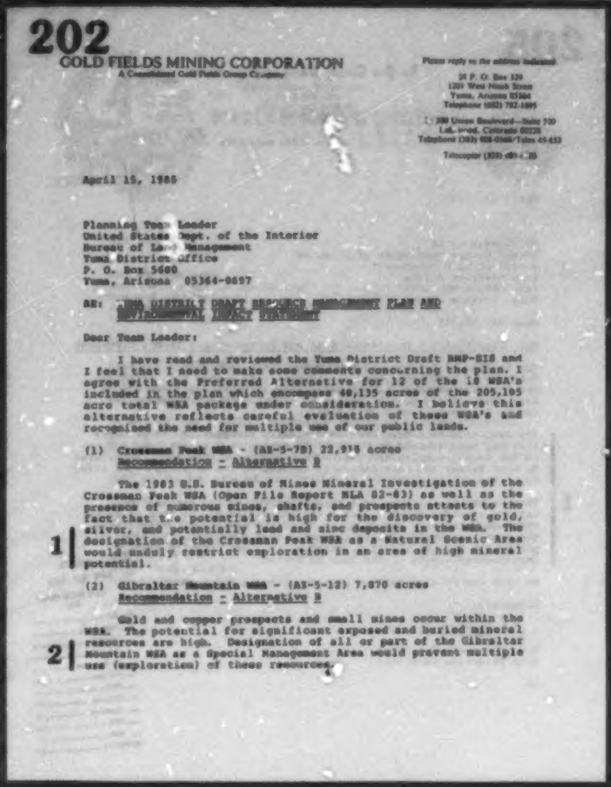
We are also pleased to see that existing agricultural leases and permits for lands without water rights will be cancelled and managed for recreation and/or wildlife values.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this report.

Sincerely,

Vernon E. Valantine
for Chief Engineer

cc: W. W. Plummer, Regional Director
Lower Colorado Regional Office, USBR
Boulder City, Nevada



202

GOLD FIELDS MINING CORPORATION
A Consolidated Gold Fields Group Company

Please reply to the address indicated

☒ P. O. Box 129
1201 West Ninth Street
Yuma, Arizona 85364
Telephone (602) 782-1895

☐ 380 Union Boulevard—Suite 300
Lakewood, Colorado 80228
Telephone (303) 988-0560/Telex 45-653

Telecopier (303) 989-[illegible]

April 15, 1985

Planning Team Leader
United States Dept. of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P. O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

RE: YUMA DISTRICT DRAFT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Dear Team Leader:

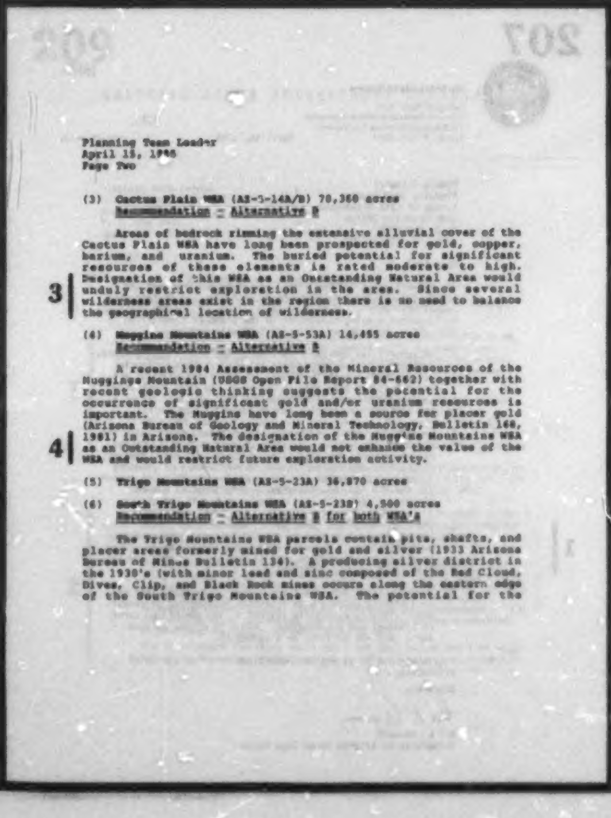
I have read and reviewed the Yuma District Draft RMP-EIS and I feel that I need to make some comments concurning the plan. I agree with the Preferred Alternative for 12 of the 18 WSA's included in the plan which encompass 40,135 acres of the 205,105 acre total WSA package under consideration. I believe this alternative reflects careful evaluation of these WSA's and recognized the need for multiple use of our public lands.

(1) Crossman Peak WSA - (AZ-5-7B) 22,915 acres
Recommendation - Alternative B

1 The 1983 U.S. Bureau of Mines Mineral Investigation of the Crossman Peak WSA (Open File Report MLA 82-83) as well as the presence of numerous mines, shafts, and prospects attests to the fact that the potential is high for the discovery of gold, silver, and potentially lead and zinc deposits in the WSA. The designation of the Crossman Peak WSA as a Natural Scenic Area would unduly restrict exploration in an area of high mineral potential.

(2) Gibraltar Mountain WSA - (AZ-5-12) 7,870 acres
Recommendation - Alternative B

2 Gold and copper prospects and small mines occur within the WSA. The potential for significant exposed and buried mineral resources are high. Designation of all or part of the Gibraltar Mountain WSA as a Special Management Area would prevent multiple use (exploration) of these resources.



Planning Team Leader
April 15, 1985
Page Two

(3) Cactus Plain WSA (AZ-5-14A/B) 70,380 acres
Recommendation - Alternative B

3 Areas of bedrock rimming the extensive alluvial cover of the Cactus Plain WSA have long been prospected for gold, copper, barium, and uranium. The buried potential for significant resources of these elements is rated moderate to high. Designation of this WSA as an Outstanding Natural Area would unduly restrict exploration in the area. Since several wilderness areas exist in the region there is no need to balance the geographical location of wilderness.

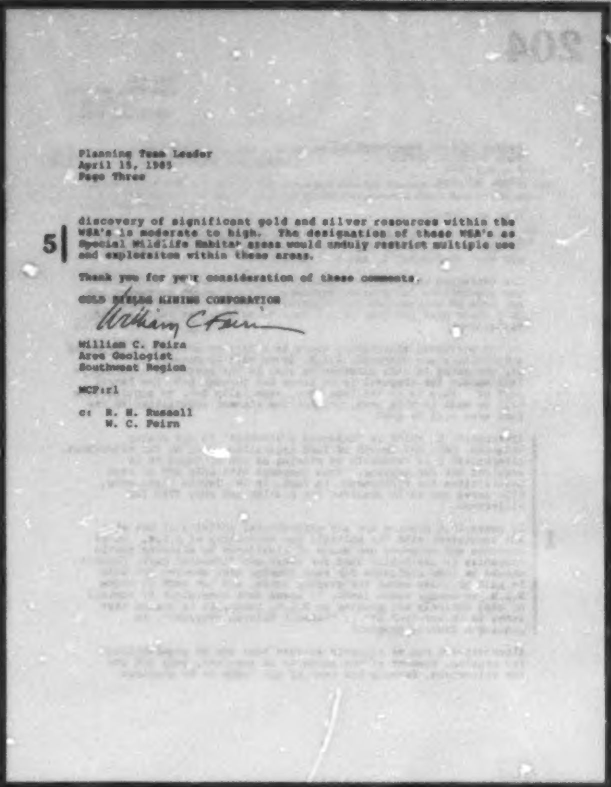
(4) Muggins Mountains WSA (AZ-5-53A) 14,455 acres
Recommendation - Alternative B

4 A recent 1984 Assessment of the Mineral Resources of the Muggings Mountain (USGS Open File Report 84-662) together with recent geologic thinking suggests the potential for the occurrence of significant gold and/or uranium resources is important. The Muggins have long been a source for placer gold (Arizona Bureau of Geology and Mineral Technology, Bulletin 168, 1981) in Arizona. The designation of the Muggins Mountains WSA as an Outstanding Natural Area would not enhance the value of the WSA and would restrict future exploration activity.

(5) Trigo Mountains WSA (AZ-5-23A) 36,870 acres

(6) South Trigo Mountains WSA (AZ-5-23B) 4,500 acres
Recommendation - Alternative B for both WSA's

The Trigo Mountains WSA parcels contain pits, shafts, and placer areas formerly mined for gold and silver (1933 Arizona Bureau of Mines Bulletin 134). A producing silver district in the 1930's (with minor lead and zinc composed of the Red Cloud, Dives, Clip, and Black Rock mines occurs along the eastern edge of the South Trigo Mountains WSA. The potential for the



Planning Team Leader
April 15, 1985
Page Three

5 discovery of significant gold and silver resources within the WSA's is moderate to high. The designation of these WSA's as Special Wildlife Habitat areas would unduly restrict multiple use and exploraiton within these areas.

Thank you for your consideration of these comments.

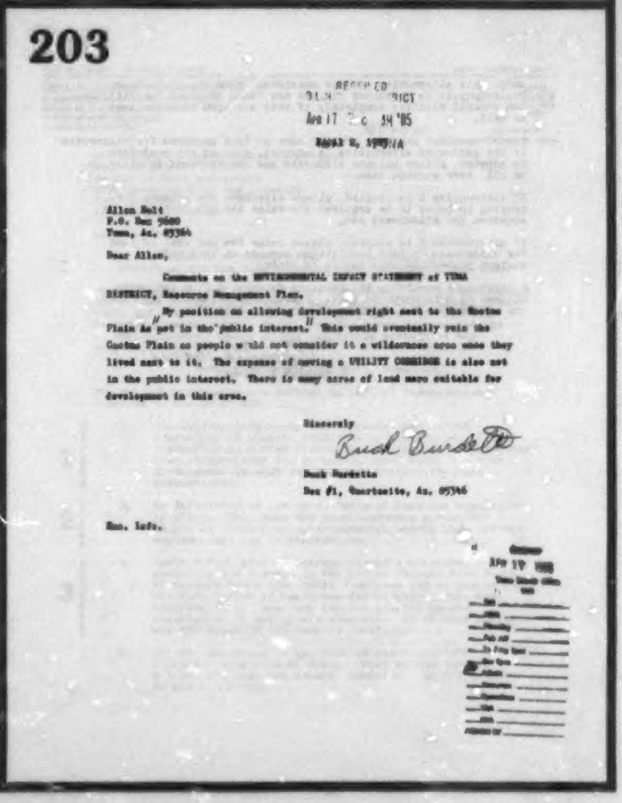
GOLD FIELDS MINING CORPORATION

William C. Feirn

William C. Feirn
Area Geologist
Southwest Region

WCF:rl

c: R. H. Russell
W. C. Feirn



203

RECEIVED
BLM DISTRICT
Apr 17 [illegible] AM '85
YUMA, ARIZONA

Allen Belt
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, Az. 85364

Dear Allen,

Comments on the ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT of YUMA DISTRICT, Resource Management Plan.

My position on allowing development right next to the Cactus Plain is "not in the public interest." This would eventually ruin the Cactus Plain as people would not consider it a wilderness area once they lived next to it. The expense of moving a UTILITY CORRIDOR is also not in the public interest. There is many acres of land more suitable for development in this area.

Sincerely

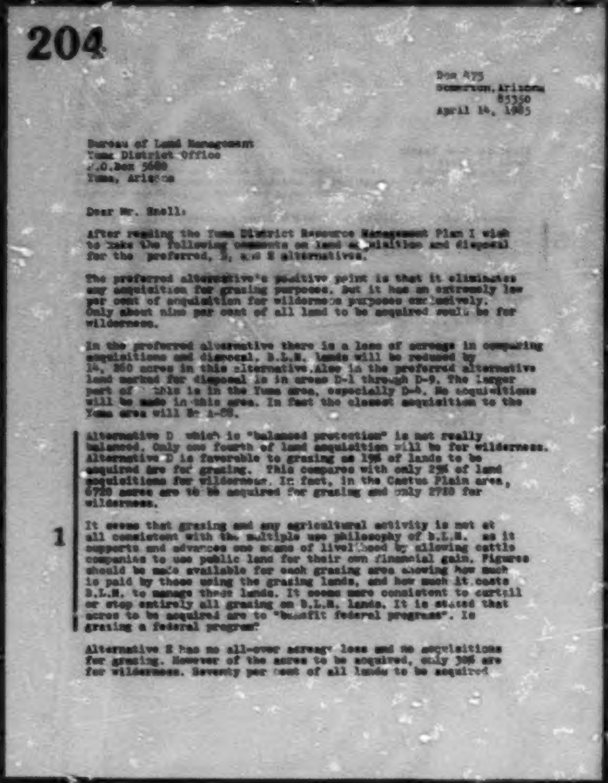
Bud Burdette

Buck Burdette
Box #1, Quartzsite, Az. 85346

Res. Info.

Received
APR 17 1985
Yuma District Office
BLM

204



Box 475
Somerton, Arizona
85350
April 14, 1985

Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P.O.Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona

Dear Mr. Snell:

After reading the Yuma District Resource Management Plan I wish to make the following comments on land acquisition and disposal for the preferred, D, and E alternatives.

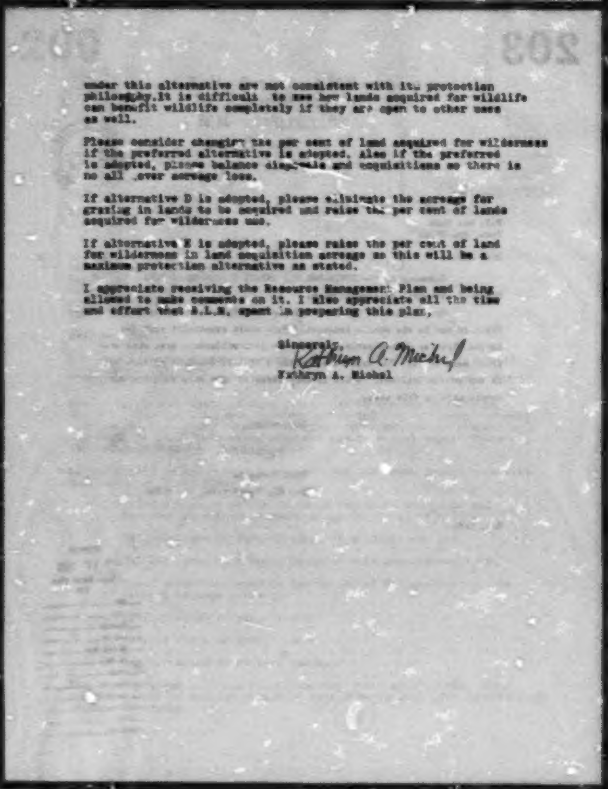
The preferred alternative's positive point is that it eliminates any acquisition for grazing purposes. But it has an extremely low per cent of acquisition for wilderness purposes exclusively. Only about nine per cent of all land to be acquired would be for wilderness.

In the preferred alternative there is a loss of acreage in comparing acquisitions and disposal. B.L.M. lands will be reduced by 14, 860 acres in this alternative. Also in the preferred alternative land marked for disposal is in areas D-1 through D-9. The larger part of this is in the Yuma area, especially D-4. No acquisitions will be made in this area. In fact the closest acquisition to the Yuma area will be A-28.

1 Alternative D which is "balanced protection" is not really balanced. Only one fourth of land acquisition will be for wilderness. Alternative D is favorable to grazing as 19% of lands to be acquired are for grazing. This compares with only 29% of land acquisitions for wilderness. In fact, in the Cactus Plain area, 6720 acres are to be acquired for grazing and only 2720 for wilderness.

It seems that grazing and any agricultural activity is not at all consistent with the multiple use philosophy of B.L.M. as it supports and advances one means of livelihood by allowing cattle companies to use public land for their own financial gain. Figures should be made available for each grazing area showing how much is paid by those using the grazing lands, and how much it costs B.L.M. to manage these lands. It seems more consistent to curtail or stop entirely all grazing on B.L.M. lands. It is stated that acres to be acquired are to "benefit federal programs". Is grazing a federal program?

Alternative E has no all-over acreage loss and no acquisitions for grazing. However of the acres to be acquired, only 30% are for wilderness. Seventy per cent of all lands to be acquired



under this alternative are not consistent with its protection philosophy. It is difficult to see how lands acquired for wildlife can benefit wildlife completely if they are open to other uses as well.

Please consider changing the per cent of land acquired for wilderness if the preferred alternative is adopted. Also if the preferred is adopted, please balance disposals and acquisitions so there is no all over acreage loss.

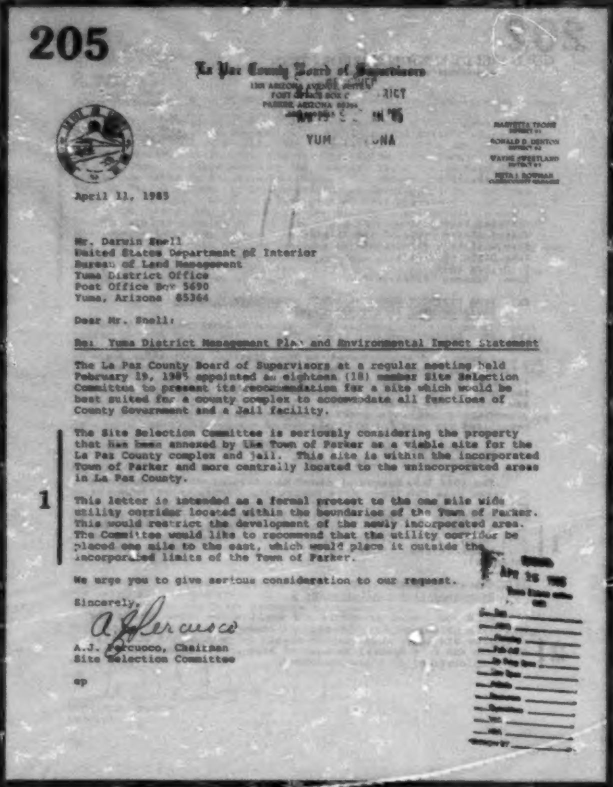
If alternative D is adopted, please eliminate the acreage for grazing in lands to be acquired and raise the per cent of lands acquired for wilderness use.

If alternative E is adopted, please raise the per cent of land for wilderness in land acquisition acreage so this will be a maximum protection alternative as stated.

I appreciate receiving the Resource Management Plan and being allowed to make comments on it. I also appreciate all the time and effort that B.L.M. spent in preparing this plan.

Sincerely,
Kathryn A. Michel
Kathryn A. Michel

205



La Paz County Board of Supervisors
1108 Arizona Avenue
Post Office Box
Parker, Arizona 85344

Ronald D. Denton
Wayne Sweetland

YUMA DISTRICT
APR 15 '85
YUMA ARIZONA

April 11, 1985

Mr. Darwin Snell
United States Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
Post Office Box 5690
Yuma, Arizona 85364

Dear Mr. Snell:

Re: Yuma District Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

The La Paz County Board of Supervisors at a regular meeting held February 19, 1985 appointed an eighteen (18) member Site Selection Committee to present its recommendation for a site which would be best suited for a county complex to accommodate all functions of County Government and a Jail facility.

1 The Site Selection Committee is seriously considering the property that has been annexed by the Town of Parker as a viable site for the La Paz County complex and jail. This site is within the incorporated Town of Parker and more centrally located to the unincorporated areas in La Paz County.

This letter is intended as a formal protest to the one mile wide utility corridor located within the boundaries of the Town of Parker. This would restrict the development of the newly incorporated area. The Committee would like to recommend that the utility corridor be placed one mile to the east, which would place it outside the incorporated limits of the Town of Parker.

We urge you to give serious consideration to our request.

Sincerely,
A.J. Fercuoco
A.J. Fercuoco, Chairman
Site Selection Committee

ap

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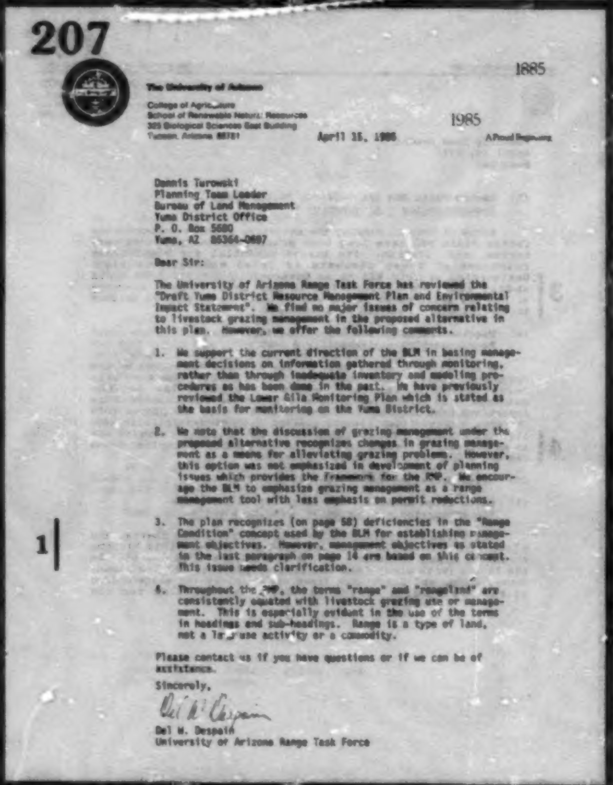


The University of Arizona
College of Agriculture
School of Renewable Natural Resources
325 Biological Sciences East Building
Tucson, Arizona 85721

1885
1985
A Proud Beginning

April 15, 1985

Dennis Turowski
Planning Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P. O. Box 5680
Yuma, AZ 85364-0807

Dear Sir:

The University of Arizona Range Task Force has reviewed the "Draft Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement". We find no major issues of concern relating to livestock grazing management in the proposed alternative in this plan. However, we offer the following comments.

1. We support the current direction of the BLM in basing management decisions on information gathered through monitoring, rather than through inadequate inventory and modeling procedures as has been done in the past. We have previously reviewed the Lower Gila Monitoring Plan which is stated as the basis for monitoring on the Yuma District.

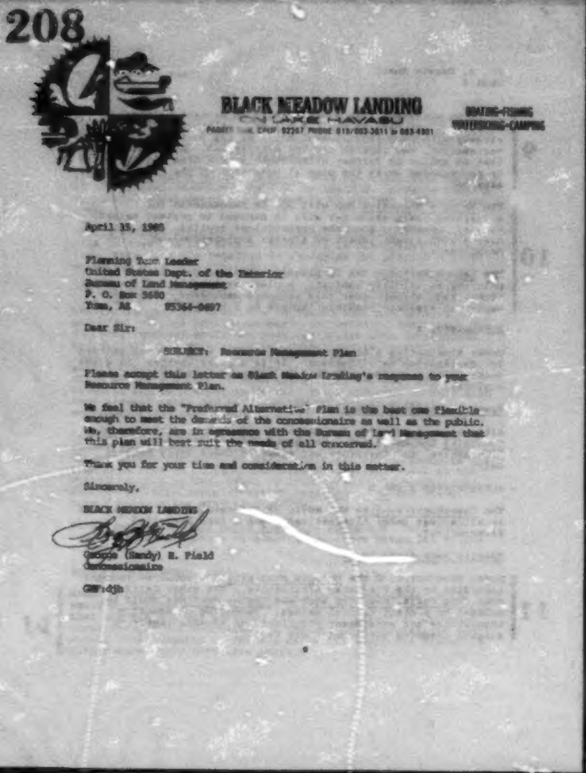
2. We note that the discussion of grazing management under the proposed alternative recognizes changes in grazing management as a means for alleviating grazing problems. However, this option was not emphasized in development of planning issues which provides the framework for the RMP. We encourage the BLM to emphasize grazing management as a range management tool with less emphasis on permit reductions.

1 3. The plan recognizes (on page 58) deficiencies in the "Range Condition" concept used by the BLM for establishing management objectives. However, management objectives as stated in the last paragraph on page 14 are based on this concept. This issue needs clarification.

4. Throughout the RMP, the terms "range" and "rangeland" are consistently equated with livestock grazing use or management. This is especially evident in the use of the terms in headings and sub-headings. Range is a type of land, not a land use activity or a commodity.

Please contact us if you have questions or if we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,
Del W. Despain
Del W. Despain
University of Arizona Range Task Force



208

BLACK MEADOW LANDING
ON LAKE HAVASU
PARKER DAM, CALIF. 92267 PHONE 619/663-3611 or 663-4901

BOATING-FISHING
WATERSKIING-CAMPING

April 15, 1985

Planning Team Leader
United States Dept. of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 5680
Yuma, AZ 85364-0697

Dear Sir:

SUBJECT: Resource Management Plan

Please accept this letter as Black Meadow Landing's response to your Resource Management Plan.

We feel that the "Preferred Alternative" Plan is the best one flexible enough to meet the demands of the concessionaire as well as the public. We, therefore, are in agreement with the Bureau of Land Management that this plan will best suit the needs of all concerned.

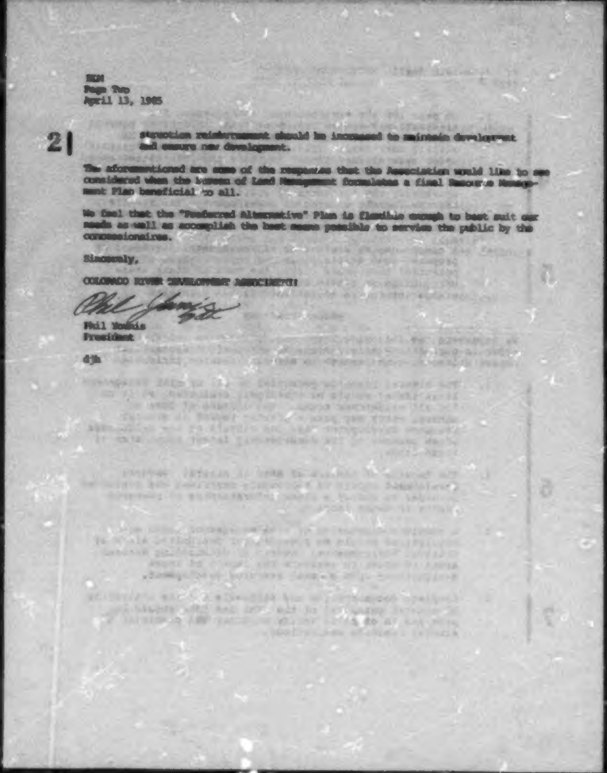
Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

BLACK MEADOW LANDING

George (Sandy) E. Field
Concessionaire

GEF:djh



BLM
Page Two
April 13, 1985

2 | Structure reimbursement should be increased to maintain development and ensure new development.

The aforementioned are some of the responses that the Association would like to see considered when the Bureau of Land Management formulates a final Resource Management Plan beneficial to all.

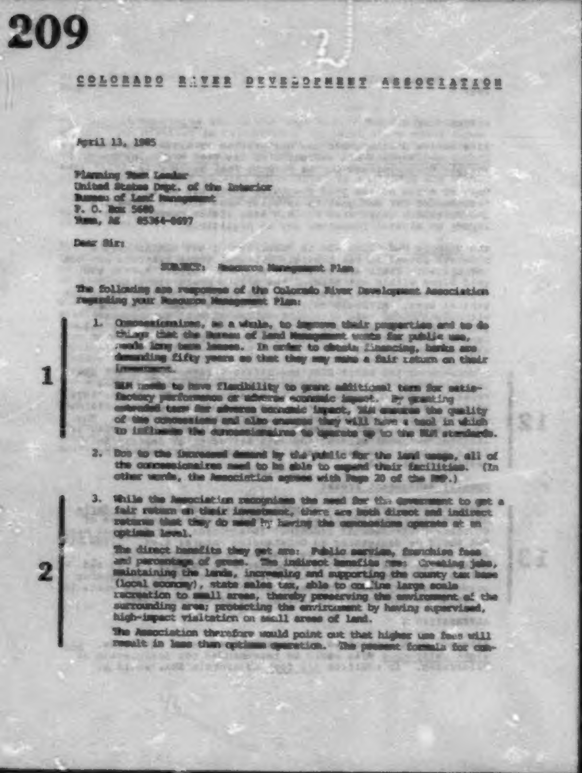
We feel that the "Preferred Alternative" Plan is flexible enough to best suit our needs as well as accomplish the best means possible to service the public by the concessionaires.

Sincerely,

COLORADO RIVER DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Phil Younis
President

djh



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COLORADO RIVER DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

April 13, 1985

Planning Team Leader
United States Dept. of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 5680
Yuma, AZ 85364-0697

Dear Sir:

SUBJECT: Resource Management Plan

The following are responses of the Colorado River Development Association regarding your Resource Management Plan:

1 | 1. Concessionaires, as a whole, to improve their properties and to do things that the Bureau of Land Management wants for public use, needs long term leases. In order to obtain financing, banks are demanding fifty years so that they may make a fair return on their investment.

BLM needs to have flexibility to grant additional term for satisfactory performance or adverse economic impact. By granting extended term for adverse economic impact, BLM ensures the quality of the concessions and also ensures they will have a tool in which to influence the concessionaires to operate up to the BLM standards.

2. Due to the increased demand by the public for the land usage, all of the concessionaires need to be able to expand their facilities. (In other words, the Association agrees with Page 20 of the RMP.)

2 | 3. While the Association recognizes the need for the Government to get a fair return on their investment, there are both direct and indirect returns that they do need by having the concessions operate at an optimum level.

The direct benefits they get are: Public service, franchise fees and percentage of gross. The indirect benefits are: Creating jobs, maintaining the lands, increasing and supporting the county tax base (local economy), state sales tax, able to confine large scale recreation to small areas, thereby preserving the environment of the surrounding area; protecting the environment by having supervised, high-impact visitation on small areas of land.

The Association therefore would point out that higher use fees will result in less than optimum operation. The present formula for con-

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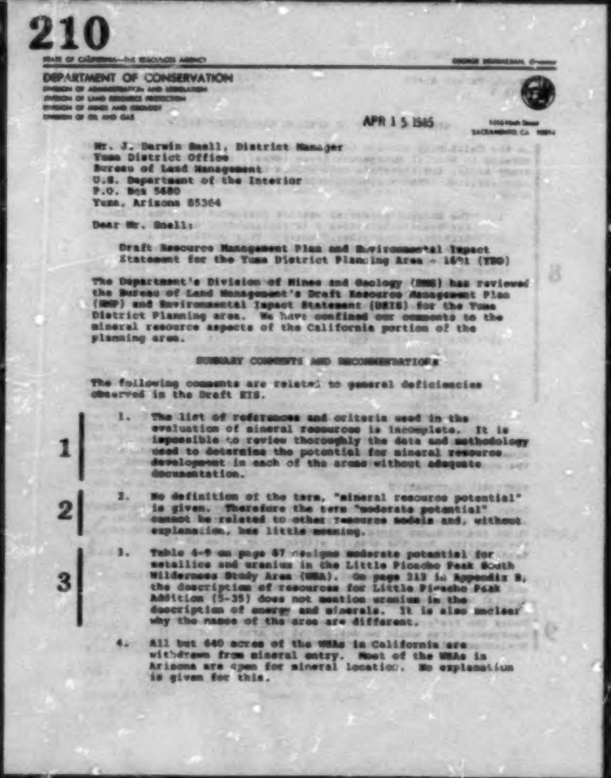


210

STATE OF CALIFORNIA—THE RESOURCES AGENCY
GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION AND LEGISLATION
DIVISION OF LAND RESOURCE PROTECTION
DIVISION OF MINES AND GEOLOGY
DIVISION OF OIL AND GAS

1416 Ninth Street
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

APR 15 1985

Mr. J. Darwin Snell, District Manager
Yuma District Office
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364

Dear Mr. Snell:

Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Yuma District Planning Area - 1691 (YDO)

The Department's Division of Mines and Geology (DMG) has reviewed the Bureau of Land Management's Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Yuma District Planning area. We have confined our comments to the mineral resource aspects of the California portion of the planning area.

SUMMARY COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

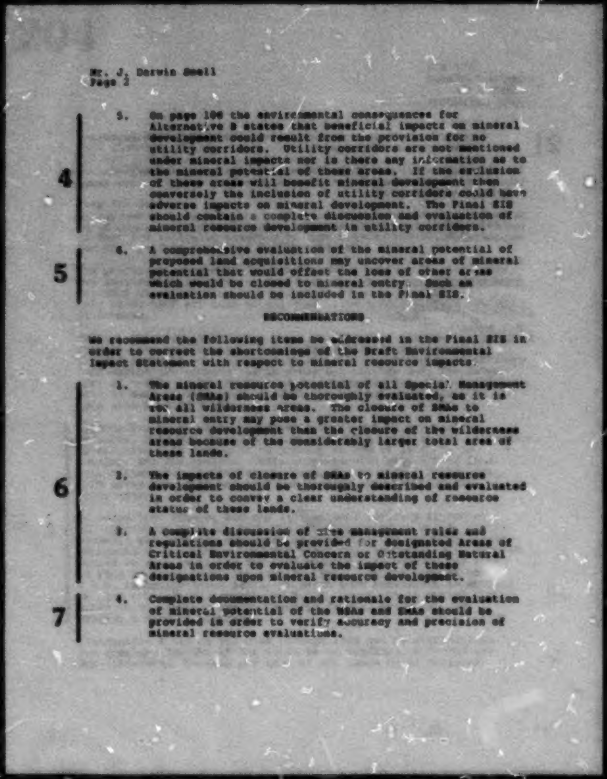
The following comments are related to general deficiencies observed in the Draft EIS.

1 | 1. The list of references and criteria used in the evaluation of mineral resources is incomplete. It is impossible to review thoroughly the data and methodology used to determine the potential for mineral resource development in each of the areas without adequate documentation.

2 | 2. No definition of the term, "mineral resource potential" is given. Therefore the term "moderate potential" cannot be related to other resource models and, without explanation, has little meaning.

3 | 3. Table 4-9 on page 87 assigns moderate potential for metallics and uranium in the Little Picacho Peak South Wilderness Study Area (WSA). On page 213 in Appendix B, the description of resources for Little Picacho Peak Addition (5-35) does not mention uranium in the description of energy and minerals. It is also unclear why the names of the area are different.

4. All but 640 acres of the WSAs in California are withdrawn from mineral entry. Most of the WSAs in Arizona are open for mineral location. No explanation is given for this.



Mr. J. Darwin Snell
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4 5. On page 108 the environmental consequences for Alternative B states that beneficial impacts on mineral development could result from the provision for no utility corridors. Utility corridors are not mentioned under mineral impacts nor is there any information as to the mineral potential of these areas. If the exclusion of these areas will benefit mineral development then conversely the inclusion of utility corridors could have adverse impacts on mineral development. The Final EIS should contain a complete discussion and evaluation of mineral resource development in utility corridors.

5 6. A comprehensive evaluation of the mineral potential of proposed land acquisitions may uncover areas of mineral potential that would offset the loss of other areas which would be closed to mineral entry. Such an evaluation should be included in the Final EIS.

RECOMMENDATIONS

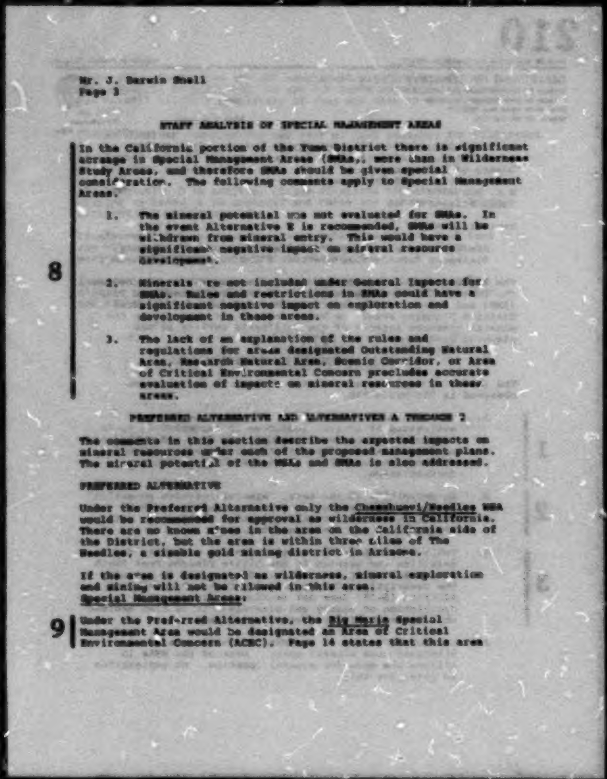
We recommend the following items be addressed in the Final EIS in order to correct the shortcomings of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement with respect to mineral resource impacts.

6 1. The mineral resource potential of all Special Management Areas (SMAs) should be thoroughly evaluated, as it is for all wilderness areas. The closure of SMAs to mineral entry may pose a greater impact on mineral resource development than the closure of the wilderness areas because of the considerably larger total area of these lands.

2. The impacts of closure of SMAs to mineral resource development should be thoroughly described and evaluated in order to convey a clear understanding of resource status of these lands.

3. A complete discussion of the management rules and regulations should be provided for designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern or Outstanding Natural Areas in order to evaluate the impact of these designations upon mineral resource development.

7 4. Complete documentation and rationale for the evaluation of mineral potential of the WSAs and SMAs should be provided in order to verify accuracy and precision of mineral resource evaluations.



Mr. J. Darwin Snell
Page 3

STAFF ANALYSIS OF SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

8 In the California portion of the Yuma District there is significant acreage in Special Management Areas (SMAs), more than in Wilderness Study Areas, and therefore SMAs should be given special consideration. The following comments apply to Special Management Areas.

1. The mineral potential was not evaluated for SMAs. In the event Alternative E is recommended, SMAs will be withdrawn from mineral entry. This would have a significant negative impact on mineral resource development.

2. Minerals are not included under General Impacts for SMAs. Rules and restrictions in SMAs could have a significant negative impact on exploration and development in these areas.

3. The lack of an explanation of the rules and regulations for areas designated Outstanding Natural Area, Research Natural Area, Scenic Corridor, or Area of Critical Environmental Concern precludes accurate evaluation of impacts on mineral resources in these areas.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE AND ALTERNATIVES A THROUGH E

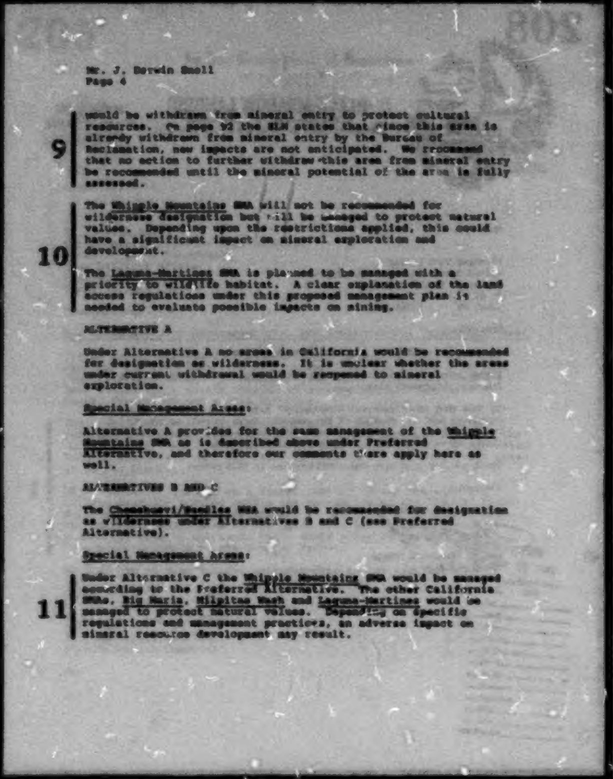
The comments in this section describe the expected impacts on mineral resources under each of the proposed management plans. The mineral potential of the WSAs and SMAs is also addressed.

PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

Under the Preferred Alternative only the Chemehuevi/Needles WSA would be recommended for approval as wilderness in California. There are no known mines in the area on the California side of the District, but the area is within three miles of The Needles, a sizable gold mining district in Arizona.

If the area is designated as wilderness, mineral exploration and mining will not be allowed in this area.
Special Management Areas:

9 Under the Preferred Alternative, the Big Maria Special Management Area would be designated an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). Page 14 states that this area



Mr. J. Darwin Snell
Page 4

9 would be withdrawn from mineral entry to protect cultural resources. On page 92 the BLM states that since this area is already withdrawn from mineral entry by the Bureau of Reclamation, new impacts are not anticipated. We recommend that no action to further withdraw this area from mineral entry be recommended until the mineral potential of the area is fully assessed.

10 The Whipple Mountains SMA will not be recommended for wilderness designation but will be managed to protect natural values. Depending upon the restrictions applied, this could have a significant impact on mineral exploration and development.

The Laguna-Martinez SMA is planned to be managed with a priority to wildlife habitat. A clear explanation of the land access regulations under this proposed management plan is needed to evaluate possible impacts on mining.

ALTERNATIVE A

Under Alternative A no areas in California would be recommended for designation as wilderness. It is unclear whether the areas under current withdrawal would be reopened to mineral exploration.

Special Management Areas:

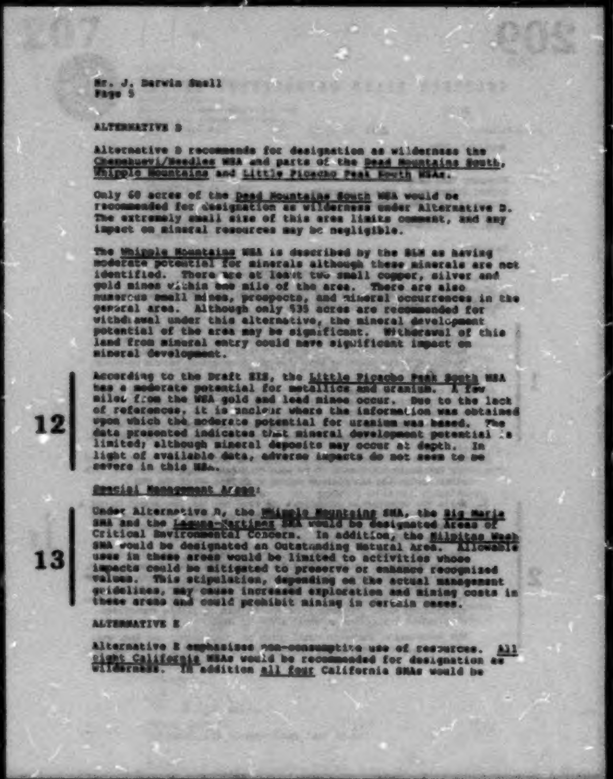
Alternative A provides for the same management of the Whipple Mountains SMA as is described above under Preferred Alternative, and therefore our comments there apply here as well.

ALTERNATIVES B AND C

The Chemehuevi/Needles WSA would be recommended for designation as wilderness under Alternatives B and C (see Preferred Alternative).

Special Management Areas:

11 Under Alternative C the Whipple Mountains SMA would be managed according to the Preferred Alternative. The other California SMAs, Big Maria, Milpitas Wash and Laguna-Martinez would be managed to protect natural values. Depending on specific regulations and management practices, an adverse impact on mineral resource development may result.



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Page 5

ALTERNATIVE D

Alternative D recommends for designation as wilderness the Chemehuevi/Needles WSA and parts of the Dead Mountains South, Whipple Mountains and Little Picacho Peak South WSAs.

Only 60 acres of the Dead Mountains South WSA would be recommended for designation as wilderness under Alternative D. The extremely small size of this area limits comment, and any impact on mineral resources may be negligible.

The Whipple Mountains WSA is described by the BLM as having moderate potential for minerals although these minerals are not identified. There are at least two small copper, silver and gold mines within one mile of the area. There are also numerous small mines, prospects, and mineral occurrences in the general area. Although only 535 acres are recommended for withdrawal under this alternative, the mineral development potential of the area may be significant. Withdrawal of this land from mineral entry could have significant impact on mineral development.

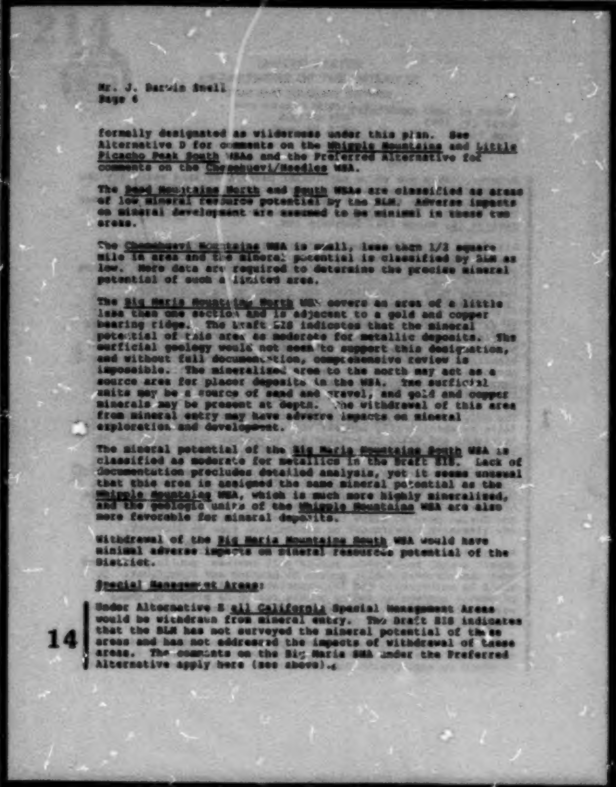
12 According to the Draft EIS, the Little Picacho Peak South WSA has a moderate potential for metallics and uranium. A few miles from the WSA gold and lead mines occur. Due to the lack of references, it is unclear where the information was obtained upon which the moderate potential for uranium was based. The data presented indicates that mineral development potential is limited; although mineral deposits may occur at depth. In light of available data, adverse impacts do not seem to be severe in this WSA.

Special Management Areas:

13 Under Alternative D, the Whipple Mountains SMA, the Big Maria SMA and the Laguna-Martinez SMA would be designated Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. In addition, the Milpitas Wash SMA would be designated an Outstanding Natural Area. Allowable uses in these areas would be limited to activities whose impacts could be mitigated to preserve or enhance recognized values. This stipulation, depending on the actual management guidelines, may cause increased exploration and mining costs in these areas and could prohibit mining in certain cases.

ALTERNATIVE E

Alternative E emphasizes non-consumptive use of resources. All eight California WSAs would be recommended for designation as wilderness. In addition all four California SMAs would be



Mr. J. Darwin Snell
Page 6

formally designated as wilderness under this plan. See Alternative D for comments on the Whipple Mountains and Little Picacho Peak South WSAs and the Preferred Alternative for comments on the Chemehuevi/Needles WSA.

The Sand Mountains North and South WSAs are classified as areas of low mineral resource potential by the BLM. Adverse impacts on mineral development are assumed to be minimal in these two areas.

The Chemehuevi Mountains WSA is small, less than 1/2 square mile in area and the mineral potential is classified by BLM as low. More data are required to determine the precise mineral potential of such a limited area.

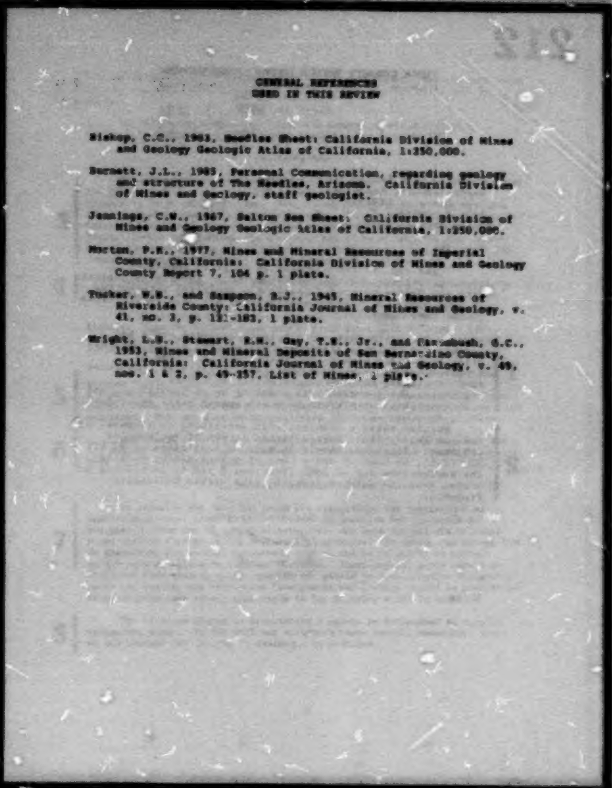
The Big Maria Mountains North WSA covers an area of a little less than one section and is adjacent to a gold and copper bearing ridge. The Draft EIS indicates that the mineral potential of this area as moderate for metallic deposits. The surficial geology would not seem to support this designation, and without full documentation, comprehensive review is impossible. The mineralized area to the north may act as a source area for placer deposits in the WSA. The surficial units may be a source of sand and gravel, and gold and copper minerals may be present at depth. The withdrawal of this area from mineral entry may have adverse impacts on mineral exploration and development.

The mineral potential of the Big Maria Mountains South WSA is classified as moderate for metallics in the Draft EIS. Lack of documentation precludes detailed analysis, yet it seems unusual that this area is assigned the same mineral potential as the Whipple Mountains WSA, which is much more highly mineralized, and the geologic units of the Whipple Mountains WSA are also more favorable for mineral deposits.

Withdrawal of the Big Maria Mountains South WSA would have minimal adverse impacts on mineral resources potential of the District.

Special Management Areas:

14 Under Alternative E all California Special Management Areas would be withdrawn from mineral entry. The Draft EIS indicates that the BLM has not surveyed the mineral potential of these areas and has not addressed the impacts of withdrawal of these areas. The comments on the Big Maria SMA under the Preferred Alternative apply here (see above).



GENERAL REFERENCES
USED IN THIS REVIEW

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Burnett, J.L., 1985, Personal Communication, regarding geology and structure of The Needles, Arizona. California Division of Mines and Geology, staff geologist.

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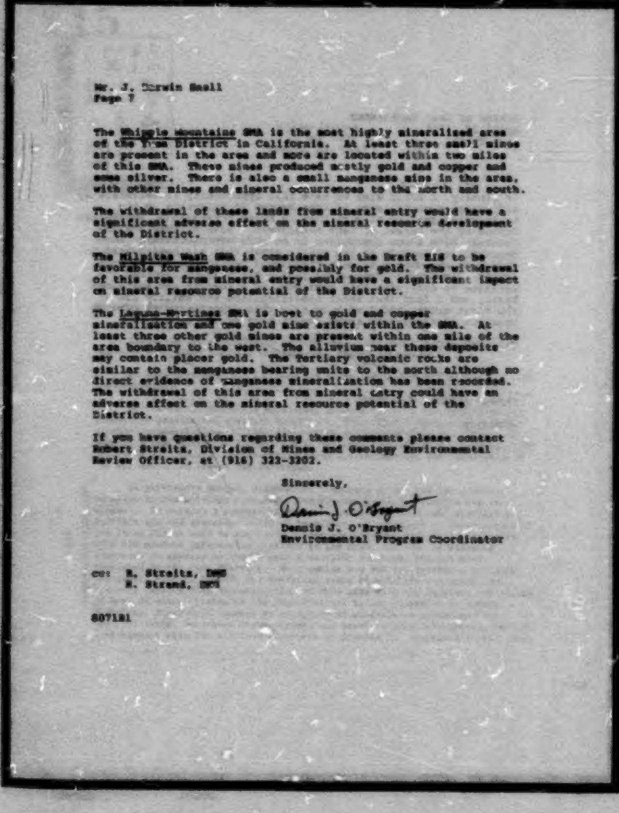
Tucker, W.B., and Sampson, R.J., 1945, Mineral Resources of Riverside County: California Journal of Mines and Geology, v. 41, no. 3, p. 121-183, 1 plate.

Wright, L.A., Stewart, R.M., Gay, T.E., Jr., and Hazenbush, G.C., 1953, Mines and Mineral Deposits of San Bernardino County, California: California Journal of Mines and Geology, v. 49, nos. 1 & 2, p. 49-257, List of Mines, 1 plate.



Mr. J. Darwin Snell
Page 7

The Whipple Mountains SMA is the most highly mineralized area of the Yuma District in California. At least three small mines are present in the area and more are located within two miles of this SMA. These mines produced mostly gold and copper and some silver. There is also a small manganese mine in the area, with other mines and mineral occurrences to the north and south.

The withdrawal of these lands from mineral entry would have a significant adverse effect on the mineral resource development of the District.

The Milpitas Wash SMA is considered in the Draft EIS to be favorable for manganese, and possibly for gold. The withdrawal of this area from mineral entry would have a significant impact on mineral resource potential of the District.

The Laguna-Martinez SMA is host to gold and copper mineralization and one gold mine exists within the SMA. At least three other gold mines are present within one mile of the area boundary to the west. The alluvium near these deposits may contain placer gold. The Tertiary volcanic rocks are similar to the manganese bearing units to the north although no direct evidence of manganese mineralization has been recorded. The withdrawal of this area from mineral entry could have an adverse affect on the mineral resource potential of the District.

If you have questions regarding these comments please contact Robert Streits, Division of Mines and Geology Environmental Review Officer, at (916) 322-3202.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. O'Bryant
Dennis J. O'Bryant
Environmental Program Coordinator

cc: R. Streits, DMG
N. Strand, DMG

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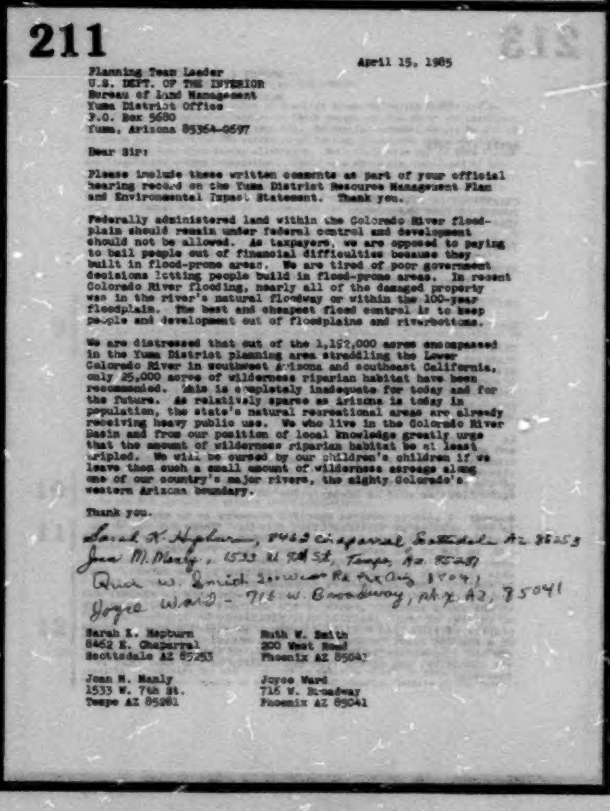

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April 15, 1985

Planning Team Leader
U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

Dear Sir:

Please include these written comments as part of your official hearing record on the Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. Thank you.

Federally administered land within the Colorado River floodplain should remain under federal control and development should not be allowed. As taxpayers, we are opposed to paying to bail people out of financial difficulties because they built in flood-prone areas. We are tired of poor government decisions letting people build in flood-prone areas. In recent Colorado River flooding, nearly all of the damaged property was in the river's natural floodway or within the 100-year floodplain. The best and cheapest flood control is to keep people and development out of floodplains and riverbottoms.

We are distressed that out of the 1,152,000 acres encompassed in the Yuma District planning area straddling the Lower Colorado River in southwest Arizona and southeast California, only 25,000 acres of wilderness riparian habitat have been recommended. This is completely inadequate for today and for the future. As relatively sparse as Arizona is today in population, the state's natural recreational areas are already receiving heavy public use. We who live in the Colorado River Basin and from our position of local knowledge greatly urge that the amount of wilderness riparian habitat be at least tripled. We will be cursed by our children's children if we leave them such a small amount of wilderness acreage along one of our country's major rivers, the mighty Colorado's western Arizona boundary.

Thank you.

Sarah K. Hepburn, 8462 Chaparral Scottsdale Az 85253
Joan M. Manly, 1533 W 7th St, Tempe, Az 85281
Ruth W. Smith 200 West Rd Phx Ariz 85041
Joyce Ward - 716 W. Broadway, Phx AZ, 85041

Sarah K. Hepburn
8462 E. Chaparral
Scottsdale AZ 85253

Ruth W. Smith
200 West Road
Phoenix AZ 85041

Joan M. Manly
1533 W. 7th St.
Tempe AZ 85281

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716 W. Broadway
Phoenix AZ 85041

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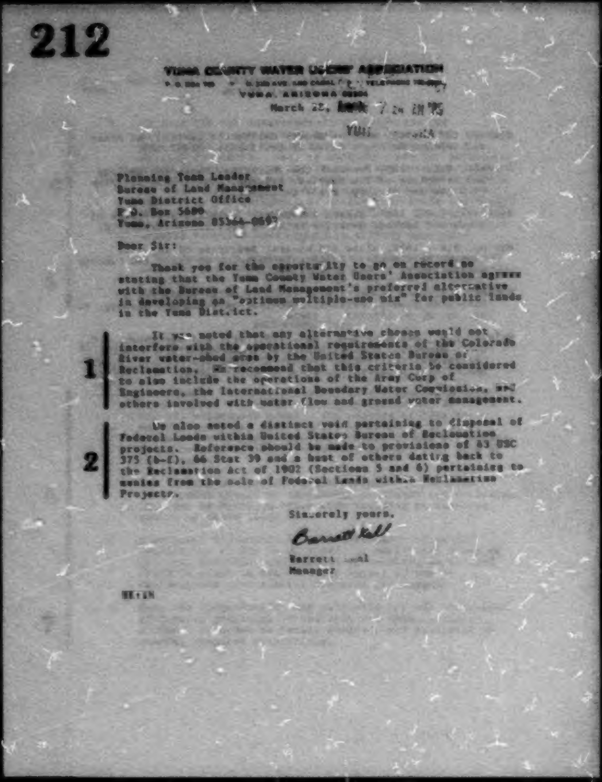

YUMA COUNTY WATER USERS' ASSOCIATION
P. O. BOX [illegible] AVE. AND CANAL [illegible] TELEPHONE [illegible]
YUMA, ARIZONA [illegible]

March 22, [illegible] 7 24 AM '85

YUMA [illegible]

Planning Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

Dear Sir:

Thank you for the opportunity to go on record as stating that the Yuma County Water Users' Association agrees with the Bureau of Land Management's preferred alternative in developing an "optimum multiple-use mix" for public lands in the Yuma District.

1 It was noted that any alternative chosen would not interfere with the operational requirements of the Colorado River water-shed area by the United States Bureau of Reclamation. We recommend that this criteria be considered to also include the operations of the Army Corp of Engineers, the International Boundary Water Commission, and others involved with water flow and ground water management.

2 We also noted a distinct void pertaining to disposal of Federal Lands within United States Bureau of Reclamation projects. Reference should be made to provisions of 43 USC 375 (b-f), 66 Stat 39 and a host of others dating back to the Reclamation Act of 1902 (Sections 5 and 6) pertaining to monies from the sale of Federal Lands within Reclamation Projects.

Sincerely yours,

Barrett Neal

Barrett Neal
Manager

BN:lm

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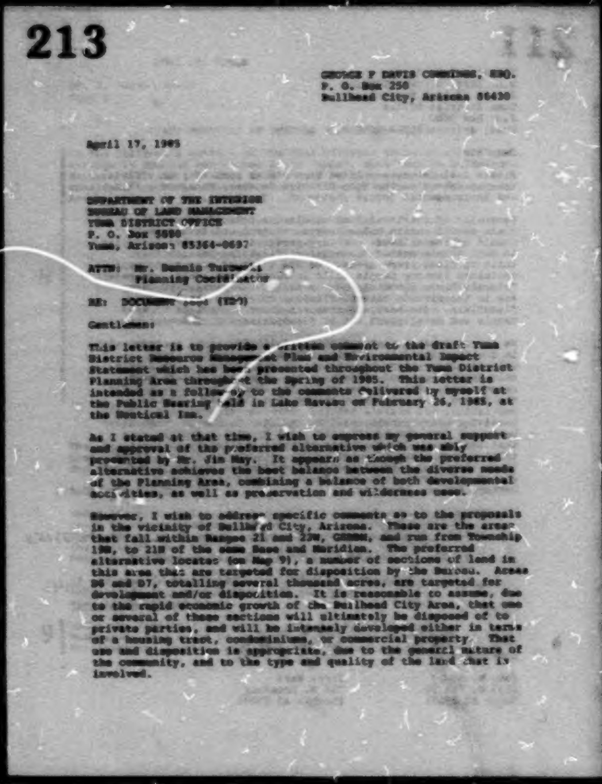


GEORGE P DAVIS CUMMINGS, ESQ.
P. O. Box 250
Bullhead City, Arizona 86430

April 17, 1985

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
YUMA DISTRICT OFFICE
P. O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

ATTN: Mr. Dennis Turowski
Planning Coordinator

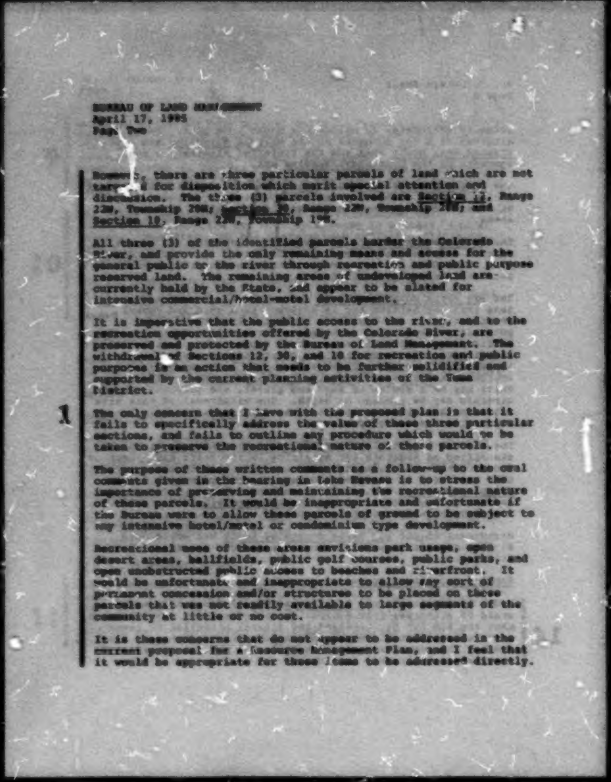
RE: DOCUMENT [illegible] (EIS)

Gentlemen:

This letter is to provide a written comment to the draft Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement which has been presented throughout the Yuma District Planning Area throughout the Spring of 1985. This letter is intended as a follow-up to the comments delivered by myself at the Public Hearing held in Lake Havasu on February 26, 1985, at the Nautical Inn.

As I stated at that time, I wish to express my general support and approval of the preferred alternative which was ably presented by Mr. Jim May. It appears as though the preferred alternative achieves the best balance between the diverse needs of the Planning Area, combining a balance of both developmental activities, as well as preservation and wilderness uses.

However, I wish to address specific comments as to the proposals in the vicinity of Bullhead City, Arizona. These are the areas that fall within Ranges 21 and 22W, GSRBM, and run from Township 19N, to 21N of the same Base and Meridian. The preferred alternative locates (on Map 9), a number of sections of land in this area that are targeted for disposition by the Bureau. Areas D6 and D7, totalling several thousand acres, are targeted for development and/or disposition. It is reasonable to assume, due to the rapid economic growth of the Bullhead City Area, that one or several of these sections will ultimately be disposed of to private parties, and will be intensely developed either in terms of a housing tract, condominiums, or commercial property. That use and disposition is appropriate, due to the general nature of the community, and to the type and quality of the land that is involved.



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
April 17, 1985
Page Two

However, there are three particular parcels of land which are not targeted for disposition which merit special attention and discussion. The three (3) parcels involved are Section 12, Range 22W, Township 20N; Section 30, Range 22W, Township 20N; and Section 10, Range 22W, Township 19N.

All three (3) of the identified parcels border the Colorado River, and provide the only remaining means and access for the general public to the river through recreation and public purpose reserved land. The remaining areas of undeveloped land are currently held by the State, and appear to be slated for intensive commercial/hotel-motel development.

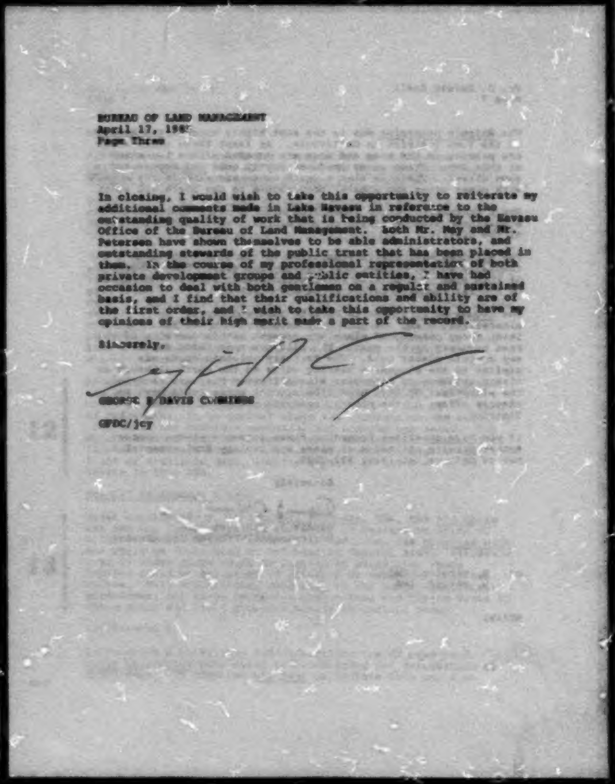
It is imperative that the public access to the river, and to the recreation opportunities offered by the Colorado River, are preserved and protected by the Bureau of Land Management. The withdrawal of Sections 12, 30, and 10 for recreation and public purposes is an action that needs to be further solidified and supported by the current planning activities of the Yuma District.

1 The only concern that I have with the proposed plan is that it fails to specifically address the value of these three particular sections, and fails to outline any procedure which would be taken to preserve the recreational nature of these parcels.

The purpose of these written comments as a follow-up to the oral comments given in the hearing in Lake Havasu is to stress the importance of preserving and maintaining the recreational nature of these parcels. It would be inappropriate and unfortunate if the Bureau were to allow these parcels of ground to be subject to any intensive hotel/motel or condominium type development.

Recreational uses of these areas envisions park usage, open desert areas, ballfields, public golf courses, public parks, and open unobstructed public access to beaches and riverfront. It would be unfortunate and inappropriate to allow any sort of permanent concession and/or structures to be placed on these parcels that was not readily available to large segments of the community at little or no cost.

It is these concerns that do not appear to be addressed in the current proposal for a Resource Management Plan, and I feel that it would be appropriate for these items to be addressed directly.



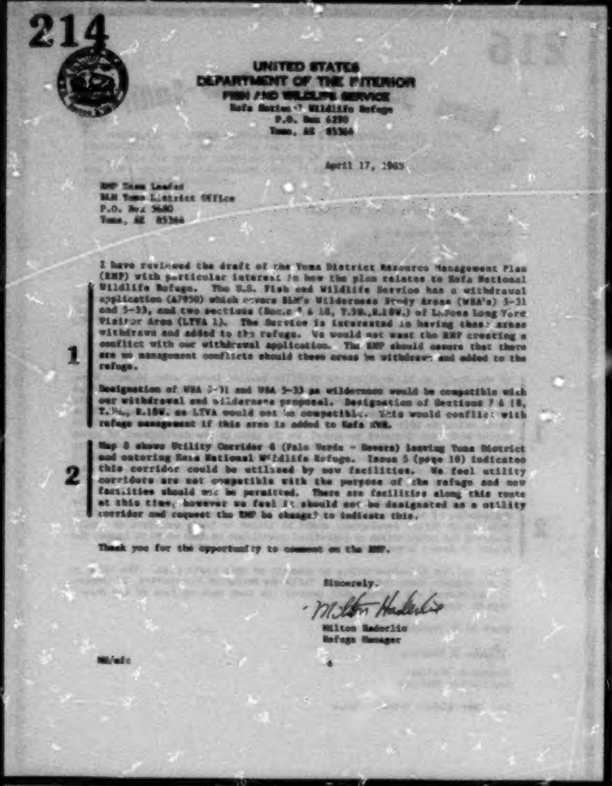
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
April 17, 1985
Page Three

In closing, I would wish to take this opportunity to reiterate my additional comments made in Lake Havasu in reference to the outstanding quality of work that is being conducted by the Havasu Office of the Bureau of Land Management. Both Mr. May and Mr. Petersen have shown themselves to be able administrators, and outstanding stewards of the public trust that has been placed in them. In the course of my professional representation of both private development groups and public entities, I have had occasion to deal with both gentlemen on a regular and sustained basis, and I find that their qualifications and ability are of the first order, and I wish to take this opportunity to have my opinions of their high merit made a part of the record.

Sincerely,

GEORGE P DAVIS CUMMINGS

GPDC/jcy



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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
Kofa National Wildlife Refuge
P.O. Box 6290
Yuma, AZ 85364

April 17, 1983

RMP Team Leader
BLM Yuma District Office
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, AZ 85364

1 I have reviewed the draft of the Yuma District Resource Management Plan (RMP) with particular interest in how the plan relates to Kofa National Wildlife Refuge. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has a withdrawal application (A7950) which covers BLM's Wilderness Study Areas (WSA's) 5-31 and 5-33, and two sections (Sec.s 7 & 18, T.3N.,R.18W.) of LaPosa Long Term Visitor Area (LTVA 1). The Service is interested in having these areas withdrawn and added to the refuge. We would not want the RMP creating a conflict with our withdrawal application. The RMP should assure that there are no management conflicts should these areas be withdrawn and added to the refuge.

Designation of WSA 5-31 and WSA 5-33 as wilderness would be compatible with our withdrawal and wilderness proposal. Designation of Sections 7 & 18, T.3N., R.18W. as LTVA would not be compatible. This would conflict with refuge management if this area is added to Kofa NWR.

2 Map 8 shows Utility Corridor 6 (Palo Verde - Devers) leaving Yuma District and entering Kofa National Wildlife Refuge. Issue 5 (page 10) indicates this corridor could be utilized by new facilities. We feel utility corridors are not compatible with the purpose of the refuge and new facilities should not be permitted. There are facilities along this route at this time, however we feel it should not be designated as a utility corridor and request the RMP be changed to indicate this.

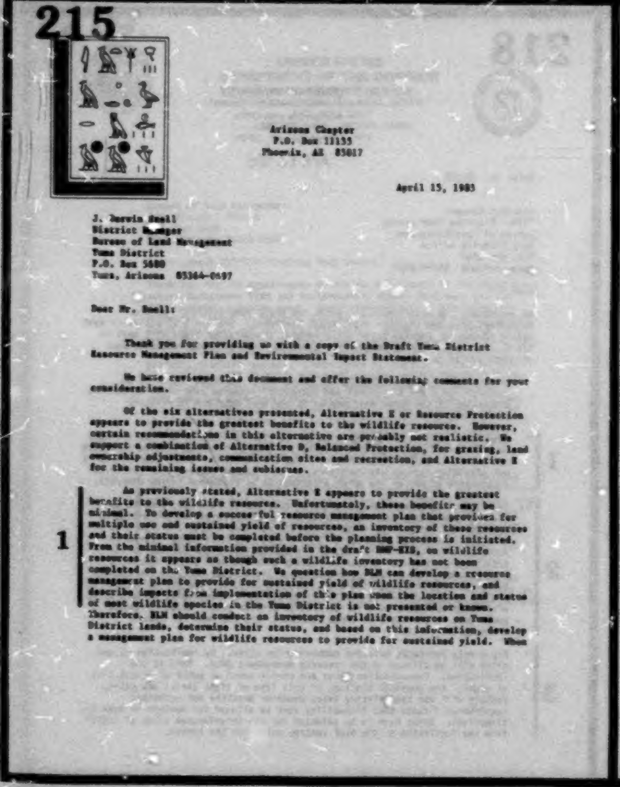
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the RMP.

Sincerely,

Milton Haderlie

Milton Haderlie
Refuge Manager

MH/afc



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Arizona Chapter
P.O. Box 11135
Phoenix, AZ 85017

April 15, 1983

J. Darwin Snell
District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

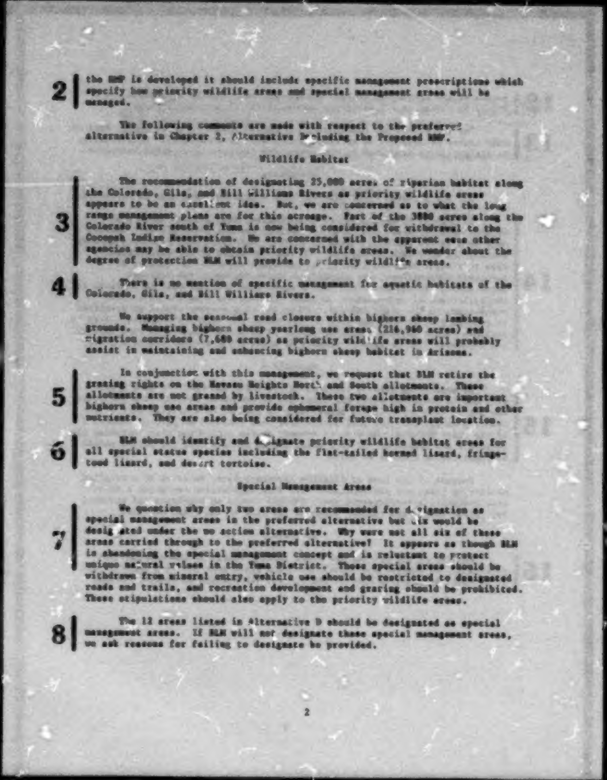
Dear Mr. Snell:

Thank you for providing us with a copy of the Draft Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

We have reviewed this document and offer the following comments for your consideration.

Of the six alternatives presented, Alternative E or Resource Protection appears to provide the greatest benefits to the wildlife resource. However, certain recommendations in this alternative are probably not realistic. We support a combination of Alternative D, Balanced Protection, for grazing, land ownership adjustments, communication sites and recreation, and Alternative E for the remaining issues and subissues.

1 As previously stated, Alternative E appears to provide the greatest benefits to the wildlife resource. Unfortunately, these benefits may be minimal. To develop a successful resource management plan that provides for multiple use and sustained yield of resources, an inventory of these resources and their status must be completed before the planning process is initiated. From the minimal information provided in the draft RMP-EIS, on wildlife resources it appears as though such a wildlife inventory has not been completed on the Yuma District. We question how BLM can develop a resource management plan to provide for sustained yield of wildlife resources, and describe impacts from implementation of this plan when the location and status of most wildlife species in the Yuma District is not presented or known. Therefore, BLM should conduct an inventory of wildlife resources on Yuma District lands, determine their status, and based on this information, develop a management plan for wildlife resources to provide for sustained yield. When



2 the RMP is developed it should include specific management prescriptions which specify how priority wildlife areas and special management areas will be managed.

The following comments are made with respect to the preferred alternative in Chapter 2, Alternative D Including the Proposed RMP.

Wildlife Habitat

3 The recommendation of designating 25,000 acres of riparian habitat along the Colorado, Gila, and Bill Williams Rivers as priority wildlife areas appears to be an excellent idea. But, we are concerned as to what the long range management plans are for this acreage. Part of the 3000 acres along the Colorado River south of Yuma is now being considered for withdrawal to the Cocopah Indian Reservation. We are concerned with the apparent ease other agencies may be able to obtain priority wildlife areas. We wonder about the degree of protection BLM will provide to priority wildlife areas.

4 There is no mention of specific management for aquatic habitats of the Colorado, Gila, and Bill Williams Rivers.

We support the seasonal road closure within bighorn sheep lambing grounds. Managing bighorn sheep yearlong use areas (216,960 acres) and migration corridors (7,680 acres) as priority wildlife areas will probably assist in maintaining and enhancing bighorn sheep habitat in Arizona.

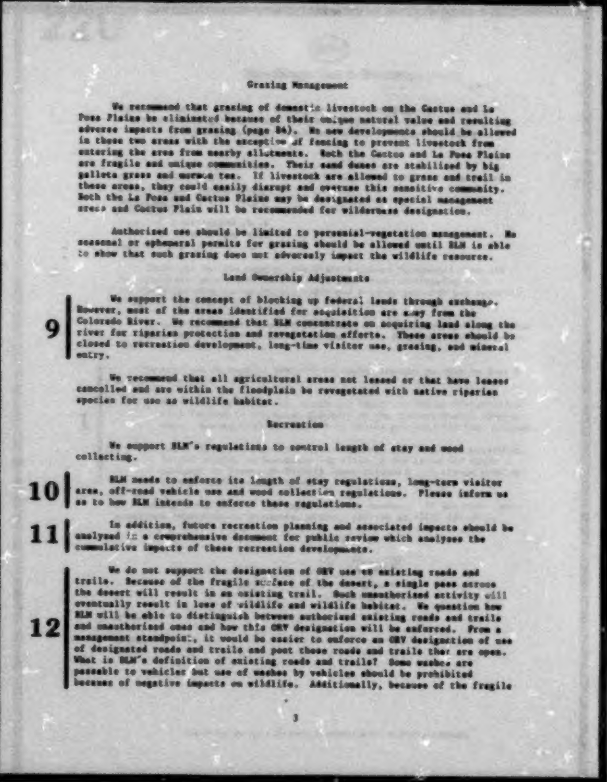
5 In conjunction with this management, we request that BLM retire the grazing rights on the Kovaca Heights North and South allotments. These allotments are not grazed by livestock. These two allotments are important bighorn sheep use areas and provide ephemeral forage high in protein and other nutrients. They are also being considered for future transplant location.

6 BLM should identify and designate priority wildlife habitat areas for all special status species including the flat-tailed horned lizard, fringe-toed lizard, and desert tortoise.

Special Management Areas

7 We question why only two areas are recommended for designation as special management areas in the preferred alternative but six would be designated under the no action alternative. Why were not all six of these areas carried through to the preferred alternative? It appears as though BLM is abandoning the special management concept and is reluctant to protect unique natural values in the Yuma District. These special areas should be withdrawn from mineral entry, vehicle use should be restricted to designated roads and trails, and recreation development and grazing should be prohibited. These stipulations should also apply to the priority wildlife areas.

8 The 12 areas listed in Alternative D should be designated as special management areas. If BLM will not designate these special management areas, we ask reasons for failing to designate be provided.



Grazing Management

We recommend that grazing of domestic livestock on the Cactus and La Posa Plains be eliminated because of their unique natural value and resulting adverse impacts from grazing (page 84). No new developments should be allowed in these two areas with the exception of fencing to prevent livestock from entering the area from nearby allotments. Both the Cactus and La Posa Plains are fragile and unique communities. Their sand dunes are stabilized by big galleta grass and mormon tea. If livestock are allowed to graze and trail in these areas, they could easily disrupt and overuse this sensitive community. Both the La Posa and Cactus Plains may be designated as special management areas and Cactus Plain will be recommended for wilderness designation.

Authorized use should be limited to perennial-vegetation management. No seasonal or ephemeral permits for grazing should be allowed until BLM is able to show that such grazing does not adversely impact the wildlife resource.

Land Ownership Adjustments

9 We support the concept of blocking up federal lands through exchange. However, most of the areas identified for acquisition are away from the Colorado River. We recommend that BLM concentrate on acquiring land along the river for riparian protection and revegetation efforts. These areas should be closed to recreation development, long-time visitor use, grazing, and mineral entry.

We recommend that all agricultural areas not leased or that have leases cancelled and are within the floodplain be revegetated with native riparian species for use as wildlife habitat.

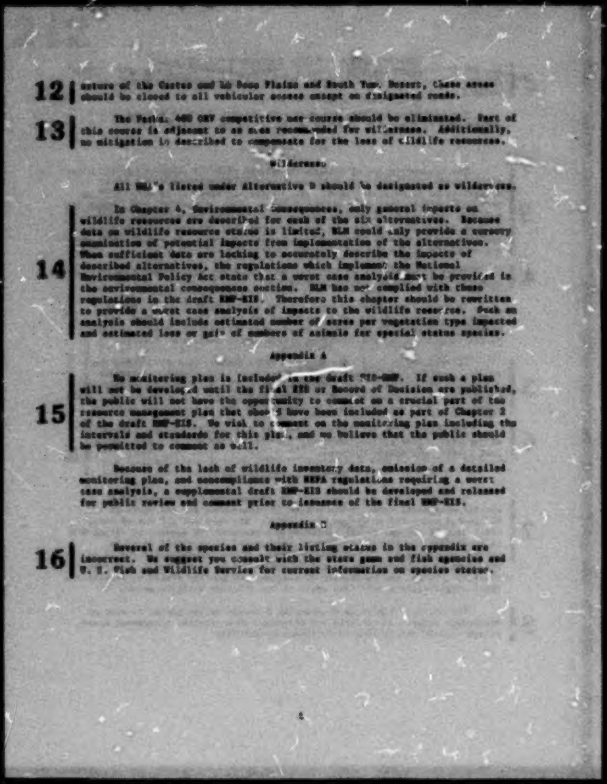
Recreation

We support BLM's regulations to control length of stay and wood collecting.

10 BLM needs to enforce its length of stay regulations, long-term visitor area, off-road vehicle use and wood collection regulations. Please inform us as to how BLM intends to enforce these regulations.

11 In addition, future recreation planning and associated impacts should be analyzed in a comprehensive document for public review which analyzes the cumulative impacts of these recreation developments.

12 We do not support the designation of ORV use on existing roads and trails. Because of the fragile surface of the desert, a single pass across the desert will result in an existing trail. Such unauthorized activity will eventually result in loss of wildlife and wildlife habitat. We question how BLM will be able to distinguish between authorized existing roads and trails and unauthorized ones and how this ORV designation will be enforced. From a management standpoint, it would be easier to enforce an ORV designation of use of designated roads and trails and post those roads and trails that are open. What is BLM's definition of existing roads and trails? Some washes are passable to vehicles but use of washes by vehicles should be prohibited because of negative impacts on wildlife. Additionally, because of the fragile



12 nature of the Cactus and La Posa Plains and South Yuma Desert, these areas should be closed to all vehicular access except on designated roads.

13 The Parker 400 ORV competitive race course should be eliminated. Part of this course is adjacent to an area recommended for wilderness. Additionally, no mitigation is described to compensate for the loss of wildlife resources.

Wilderness

All WSA's listed under Alternative D should be designated as wilderness.

14 In Chapter 4, Environmental Consequences, only general impacts on wildlife resources are described for each of the six alternatives. Because data on wildlife resource status is limited, BLM could only provide a cursory examination of potential impacts from implementation of the alternatives. When sufficient data are lacking to accurately describe the impacts of described alternatives, the regulations which implement the National Environmental Policy Act state that a worst case analysis must be provided in the environmental consequences section. BLM has not complied with these regulations in the draft RMP-EIS. Therefore this chapter should be rewritten to provide a worst case analysis of impacts to the wildlife resource. Such an analysis should include estimated number of acres per vegetation type impacted and estimated loss or gain of numbers of animals for special status species.

Appendix A

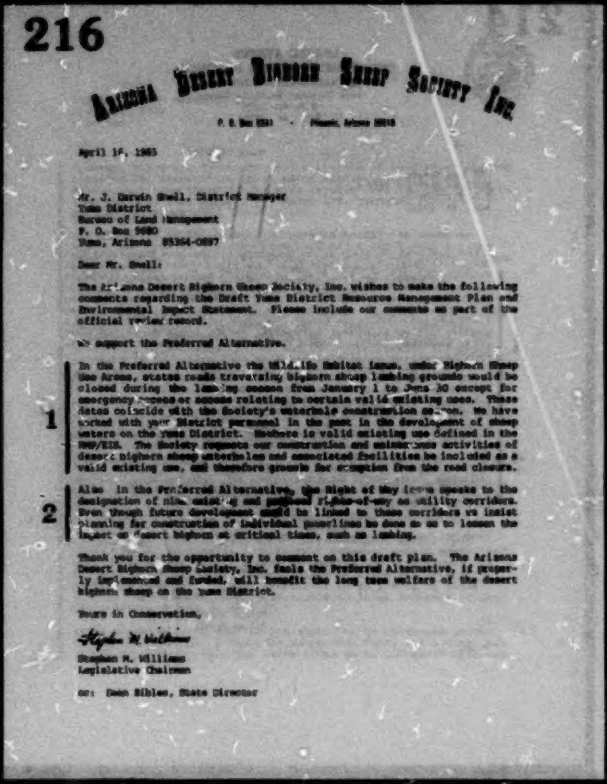
15 No monitoring plan is included in the draft EIS-RMP. If such a plan will not be developed until the final EIS or Record of Decision are published, the public will not have the opportunity to comment on a crucial part of the resource management plan that should have been included as part of Chapter 2 of the draft RMP-EIS. We wish to comment on the monitoring plan including the intervals and standards for this plan, and we believe that the public should be permitted to comment as well.

Because of the lack of wildlife inventory data, omission of a detailed monitoring plan, and noncompliance with NEPA regulations requiring a worst case analysis, a supplemental draft RMP-EIS should be developed and released for public review and comment prior to issuance of the final RMP-EIS.

Appendix D

16 Several of the species and their listing status in the appendix are incorrect. We suggest you consult with the state game and fish agencies and U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service for current information on species status.

4



216

ARIZONA DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP SOCIETY INC.

P. O. Box [illegible] · Phoenix, Arizona [illegible]

April 16, 1985

Mr. J. Darwin Snell, District Manager
Yuma District
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0897

Dear Mr. Snell:

The Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Inc. wishes to make the following comments regarding the Draft Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. Please include our comments as part of the official review record.

We support the Preferred Alternative.

1 In the Preferred Alternative the Wildlife Habitat issue, under Bighorn Sheep Use Areas, states roads traversing bighorn sheep lambing grounds would be closed during the lambing season from January 1 to June 30 except for emergency access or access relating to certain valid existing uses. These dates coincide with the Society's waterhole construction season. We have worked with your District personnel in the past in the development of sheep waters on the Yuma District. Nowhere is valid existing use defined in the RMP/EIS. The Society requests our construction and maintenance activities of desert bighorn sheep waterholes and associated facilities be included as a valid existing use, and therefore grounds for exemption from the road closure.

2 Also in the Preferred Alternative, the Right of Way issue speaks to the designation of nine existing and proposed rights-of-way as utility corridors. Even though future development would be linked to these corridors we insist planning for construction of individual powerlines be done so as to lessen the impact on desert bighorn at critical times, such as lambing.

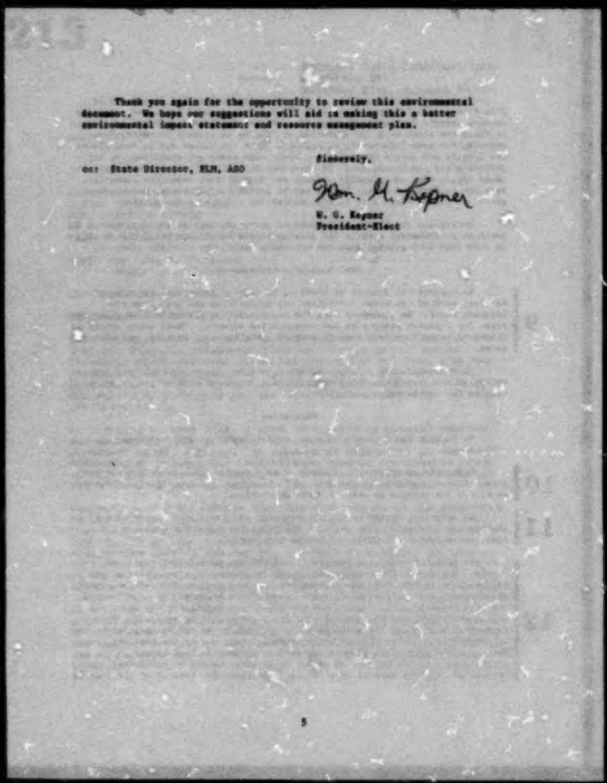
Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this draft plan. The Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Inc. feels the Preferred Alternative, if properly implemented and funded, will benefit the long term welfare of the desert bighorn sheep on the Yuma District.

Yours in Conservation,

Stephen M. Williams

Stephen M. Williams
Legislative Chairman

cc: Dean Bibles, State Director



Thank you again for the opportunity to review this environmental document. We hope our suggestions will aid in making this a better environmental impact statement and resource management plan.

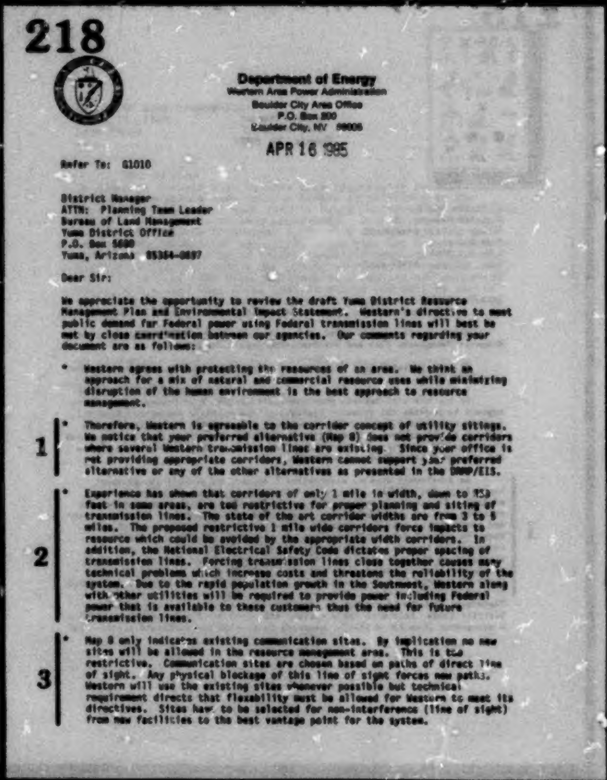
Sincerely,

Wm. G. Kepner

W. G. Kepner
President-Elect

cc: State Director, BLM, ASO

5



218

Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Boulder City Area Office
P.O. Box 200
Boulder City, NV 89005

APR 16 1985

Refer To: G1010

District Manager
ATTN: Planning Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0897

Dear Sir:

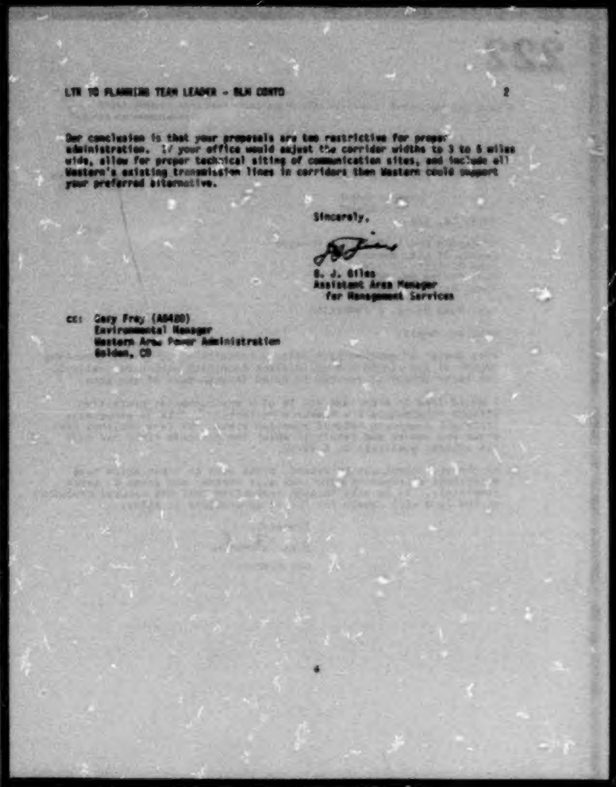
We appreciate the opportunity to review the draft Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. Western's directive to meet public demand for Federal power using Federal transmission lines will best be met by close coordination between our agencies. Our comments regarding your document are as follows:

- Western agrees with protecting the resources of an area. We think an approach for a mix of natural and commercial resource uses while minimizing disruption of the human environment is the best approach to resource management.

1 - Therefore, Western is agreeable to the corridor concept of utility sitings. We notice that your preferred alternative (Map 8) does not provide corridors where several Western transmission lines are existing. Since your office is not providing appropriate corridors, Western cannot support your preferred alternative or any of the other alternatives as presented in the DRMP/EIS.

2 - Experience has shown that corridors of only 1 mile in width, down to 750 feet in some areas, are too restrictive for proper planning and siting of transmission lines. The state of the art corridor widths are from 3 to 5 miles. The proposed restrictive 1 mile wide corridors force impacts to resource which could be avoided by the appropriate width corridors. In addition, the National Electrical Safety Code dictates proper spacing of transmission lines. Forcing transmission lines close together causes many technical problems which increase costs and threatens the reliability of the system. Due to the rapid population growth in the Southwest, Western along with other utilities will be required to provide power including Federal power that is available to these customers thus the need for future transmission lines.

3 - Map 8 only indicates existing communication sites. By implication no new sites will be allowed in the resource management area. This is too restrictive. Communication sites are chosen based on paths of direct line of sight. Any physical blockage of this line of sight forces new paths. Western will use the existing sites whenever possible but technical requirement directs that flexability must be allowed for Western to meet its directives. Sites have to be selected for non-interference (line of sight) from new facilities to the best vantage point for the system.



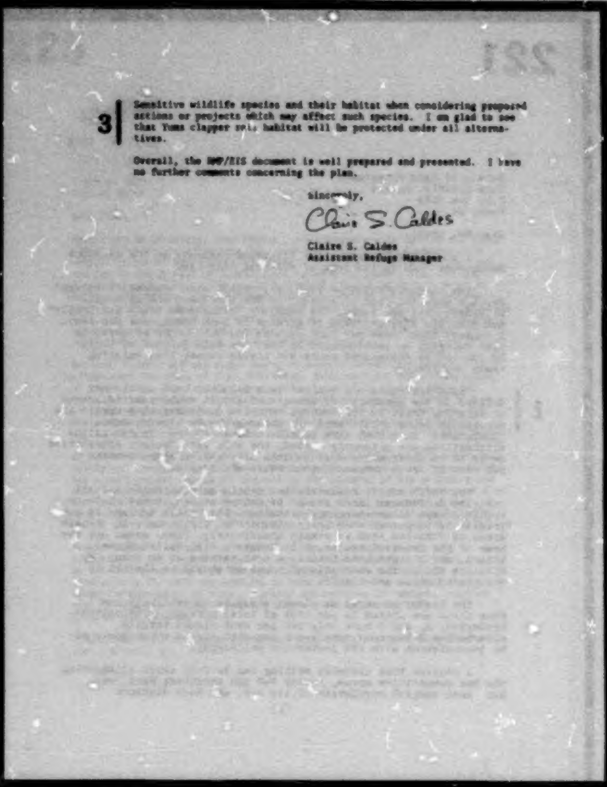
LTR TO PLANNING TEAM LEADER - BLM CONTD 2

Our conclusion is that your proposals are too restrictive for proper administration. If your office would adjust the corridor widths to 3 to 5 miles wide, allow for proper technical siting of communication sites, and include all Western's existing transmission lines in corridors then Western could support your preferred alternative.

Sincerely,

G. J. Giles
Assistant Area Manager
for Management Services

cc: Gary Frey (A6420)
Environmental Manager
Western Area Power Administration
Golden, CO



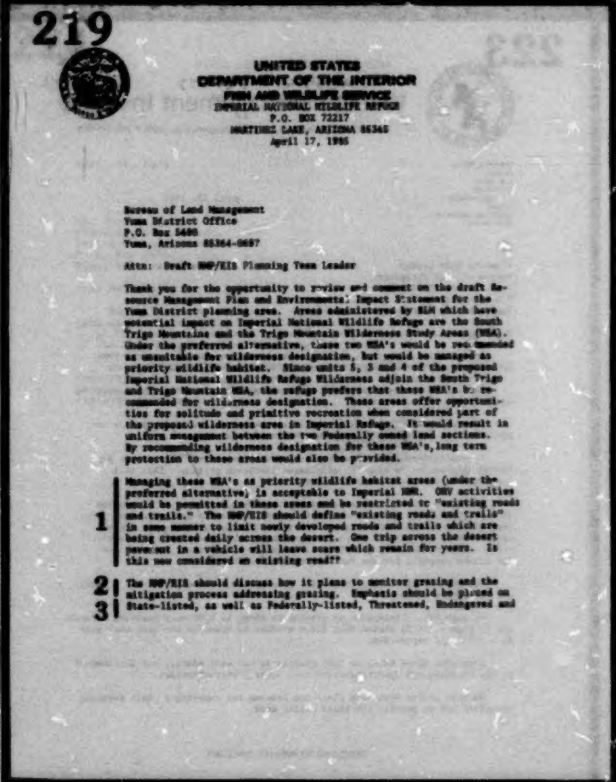
3 Sensitive wildlife species and their habitat when considering proposed actions or projects which may affect such species. I am glad to see that Yuma clapper rail habitat will be protected under all alternatives.

Overall, the RMP/EIS document is well prepared and presented. I have no further comments concerning the plan.

Sincerely,

Claire S. Caldes

Claire S. Caldes
Assistant Refuge Manager



219

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
IMPERIAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
P.O. BOX 72217
MARTINEZ LAKE, ARIZONA 85365
April 17, 1985

Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

Attn: Draft RMP/EIS Planning Team Leader

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Yuma District planning area. Areas administered by BLM which have potential impact on Imperial National Wildlife Refuge are the South Trigo Mountains and the Trigo Mountain Wilderness Study Areas (WSA). Under the preferred alternative, these two WSA's would be recommended as unsuitable for wilderness designation, but would be managed as priority wildlife habitat. Since units 5, 3 and 4 of the proposed Imperial National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness adjoin the South Trigo and Trigo Mountain WSA, the refuge prefers that these WSA's be recommended for wilderness designation. These areas offer opportunities for solitude and primitive recreation when considered part of the proposed wilderness area in Imperial Refuge. It would result in uniform management between the two Federally owned land sections. By recommending wilderness designation for these WSA's, long term protection to these areas would also be provided.

1 Managing these WSA's as priority wildlife habitat areas (under the preferred alternative) is acceptable to Imperial NWR. ORV activities would be permitted in these areas and be restricted to "existing roads and trails." The RMP/EIS should define "existing roads and trails" in some manner to limit newly developed roads and trails which are being created daily across the desert. One trip across the desert pavement in a vehicle will leave scars which remain for years. Is this now considered an existing road??

2 The RMP/EIS should discuss how it plans to monitor grazing and the mitigation process addressing grazing. Emphasis should be placed on
3 State-listed, as well as Federally-listed, Threatened, Endangered and

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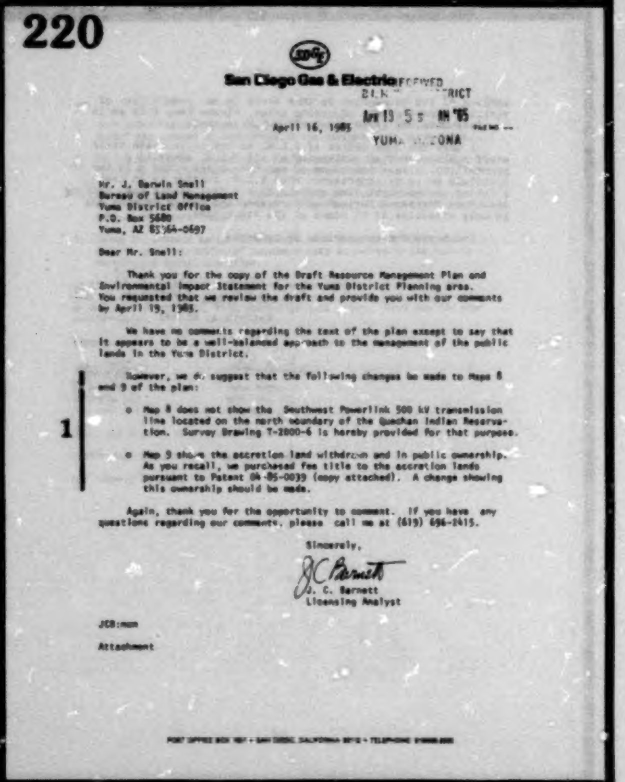


220

San Diego Gas & Electric

RECEIVED
B.L.M. [illegible] DISTRICT
Apr 19 5 [illegible] AM '85
YUMA, ARIZONA

April 16, 1985

Mr. J. Darwin Snell
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, AZ 85364-0697

Dear Mr. Snell:

Thank you for the copy of the Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Yuma District Planning area. You requested that we review the draft and provide you with our comments by April 19, 1985.

We have no comments regarding the text of the plan except to say that it appears to be a well-balanced approach to the management of the public lands in the Yuma District.

1 However, we do suggest that the following changes be made to Maps 8 and 9 of the plan:

- Map 8 does not show the Southwest Powerlink 500 kV transmission line located on the north boundary of the Quechan Indian Reservation. Survey Drawing T-2000-6 is hereby provided for that purpose.
- Map 9 shows the accretion land withdrawn and in public ownership. As you recall, we purchased fee title to the accretion lands pursuant to Patent 04-85-0039 (copy attached). A change showing this ownership should be made.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions regarding our comments, please call me at (619) 696-2415.

Sincerely,

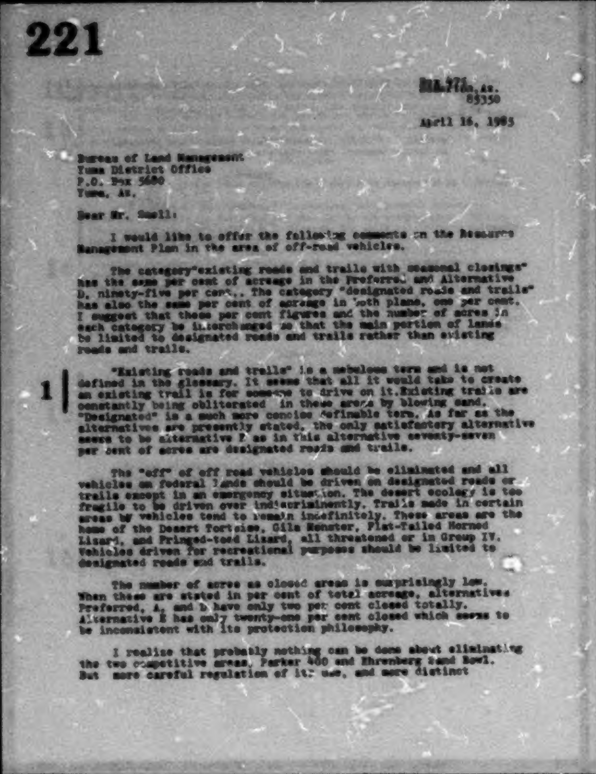
J C Barnett
J. C. Barnett
Licensing Analyst

JCB:mon

Attachment

POST OFFICE BOX [illegible] • SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA [illegible] • TELEPHONE [illegible]

221



Box 771
Somerton, Az.
85350

April 16, 1985

Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, Az.

Dear Mr. Snell:

I would like to offer the following comments on the Resource Management Plan in the area of off-road vehicles.

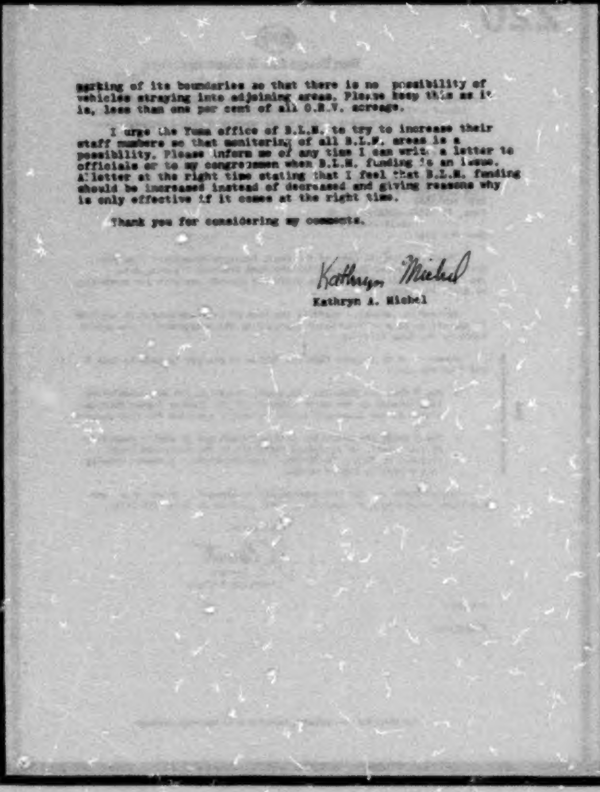
The category"existing roads and trails with seasonal closings" has the same per cent of acreage in the Preferred and Alternative D, ninety-five per cent.. The category "designated roads and trails" has also the same per cent of acreage in both plans, one per cent. I suggest that these per cent figures and the number of acres in each category be interchanged so that the main portion of lands be limited to designated roads and trails rather than existing roads and trails.

1 "Existing roads and trails" is a nebulous term and is not defined in the glossary. It seems that all it would take to create an existing trail is for someone to drive on it.Existing trails are constantly being obliterated in these areas by blowing sand. "Designated" is a much more concise definable term. As far as the alternatives are presently stated, the only satisfactory alternative seems to be alternative E as in this alternative seventy-seven per cent of acres are designated roads and trails.

The "off" of off road vehicles should be eliminated and all vehicles on federal lands should be driven on designated roads or trails except in an emergency situation. The desert ecology is too fragile to be driven over indiscriminently. Trails made in certain areas by vehicles tend to remain indefinitely. These areas are the home of the Desert Tortoise, Gila Monster, Flat-Tailed Horned Lizard, and Fringed-toed Lizard, all threatened or in Group IV. Vehicles driven for recreational purposes should be limited to designated roads and trails.

The number of acres as closed areas is surprisingly low. When these are stated in per cent of total acreage, alternatives Preferred, A, and D have only two per cent closed totally. Alternative E has only twenty-one per cent closed which seems to be inconsistent with its protection philosophy.

I realize that probably nothing can be done about eliminating the two competitive areas, Parker 400 and Ehrenberg Sand Bowl. But more careful regulation of its use, and more distinct



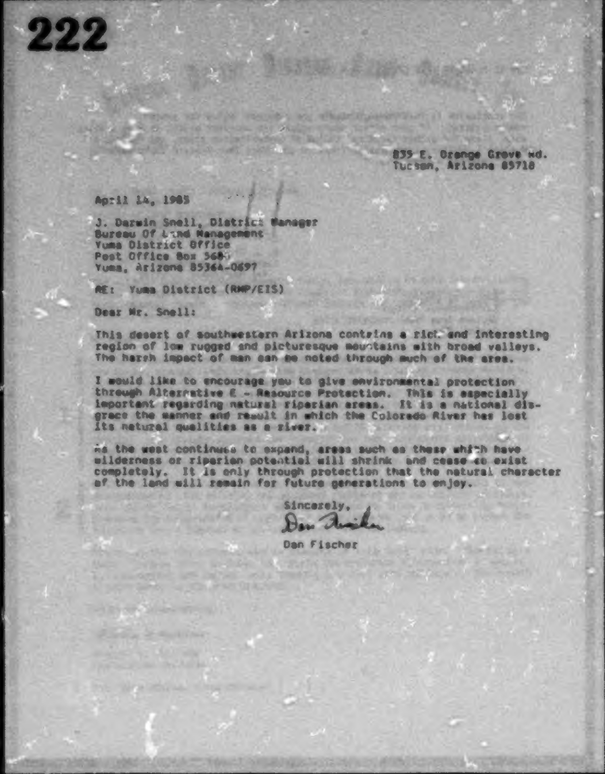
marking of its boundaries so that there is no possibility of vehicles straying into adjoining areas. Please keep this as it is, less than one per cent of all O.R.V. acreage.

I urge the Yuma office of B.L.M. to try to increase their staff numbers so that monitoring of all B.L.M. areas is a possibility. Please inform me of any time I can write a letter to officials or to my congressmen when B.L.M. funding is an issue. A letter at the right time stating that I feel that B.L.M. funding should be increased instead of decreased and giving reasons why is only effective if it comes at the right time.

Thank you for considering my comments.

Kathryn Michel
Kathryn A. Michel

222



835 E. Orange Grove Rd.
Tucson, Arizona 85718

April 14, 1985

J. Darwin Snell, District Manager
Bureau Of Land Management
Yuma District Office
Post Office Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

RE: Yuma District (RMP/EIS)

Dear Mr. Snell:

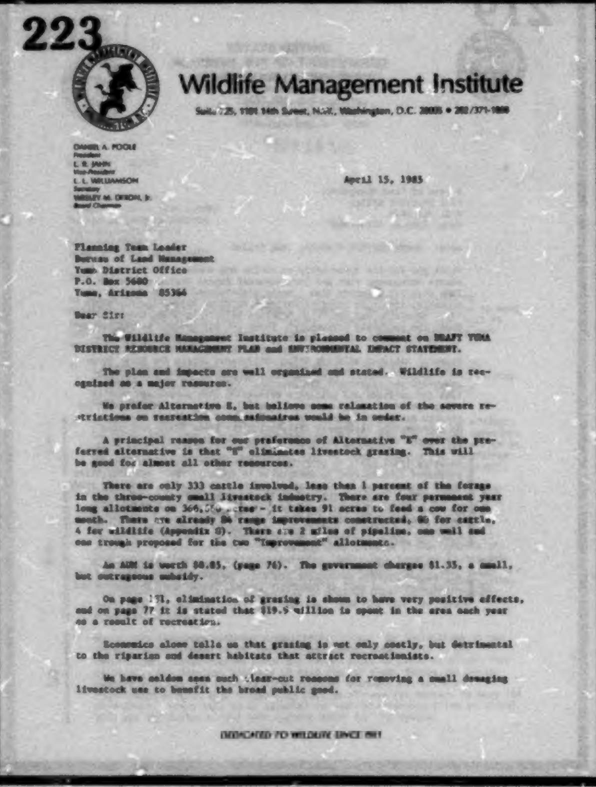
This desert of southwestern Arizona contains a rich and interesting region of low rugged and picturesque mountains with broad valleys. The harsh impact of man can be noted through much of the area.

I would like to encourage you to give environmental protection through Alternative E - Resource Protection. This is especially important regarding natural riparian areas. It is a national disgrace the manner and result in which the Colorado River has lost its natural qualities as a river.

As the west continues to expand, areas such as these which have wilderness or riparian potential will shrink and cease to exist completely. It is only through protection that the natural character of the land will remain for future generations to enjoy.

Sincerely,
Dan Fischer
Dan Fischer

223



Wildlife Management Institute
Suite 725, 1101 14th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005 • 202/371-1808

DANIEL A. POOLE
President
L. R. JAHN
Vice-President
L. L. WILLIAMSON
Secretary
WESLEY M. DIXON, Jr.
Board Chairman

April 15, 1985

Planning Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364

Dear Sir:

The Wildlife Management Institute is pleased to comment on DRAFT YUMA DISTRICT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN and ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.

The plan and impacts are well organized and stated. Wildlife is recognized as a major resource.

We prefer Alternative E, but believe some relaxation of the severe restrictions on recreation conn. aficionados would be in order.

A principal reason for our preference of Alternative "E" over the preferred alternative is that "E" eliminates livestock grazing. This will be good for almost all other resources.

There are only 333 cattle involved, less than 1 percent of the forage in the three-county small livestock industry. There are four permanent year long allotments on 366,560 acres - it takes 91 acres to feed a cow for one month. There are already 90 range improvements constructed, 86 for cattle, 4 for wildlife (Appendix 8). There are 2 miles of pipeline, one well and one trough proposed for the two "Improvement" allotments.

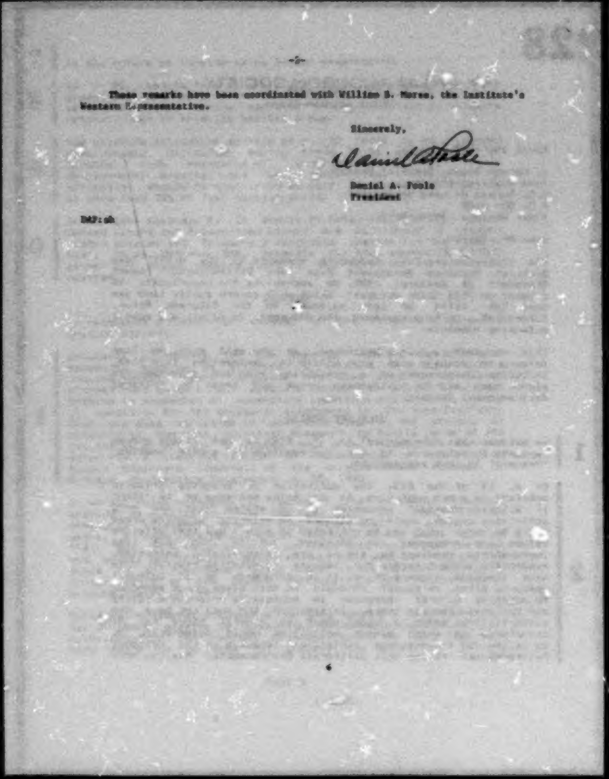
An AUM is worth $8.85, (page 76). The government charges $1.35, a small, but outrageous subsidy.

On page 131, elimination of grazing is shown to have very positive effects, and on page 77 it is stated that $19.5 million is spent in the area each year as a result of recreation.

Economics alone tells us that grazing is not only costly, but detrimental to the riparian and desert habitats that attract recreationists.

We have seldom seen such clear-cut reasons for removing a small damaging livestock use to benefit the broad public good.

DEDICATED TO WILDLIFE SINCE 1911



-2-

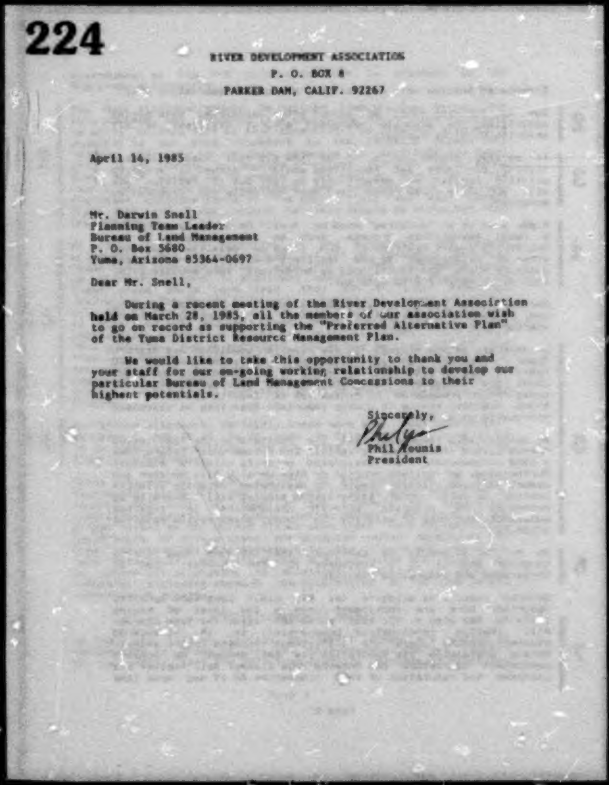
These remarks have been coordinated with William D. Morse, the Institute's Western Representative.

Sincerely,

Daniel A. Poole
President

DAP:sh

224



RIVER DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION
P. O. BOX 8
PARKER DAM, CALIF. 92267

April 14, 1985

Mr. Darwin Snell
Planning Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

Dear Mr. Snell,

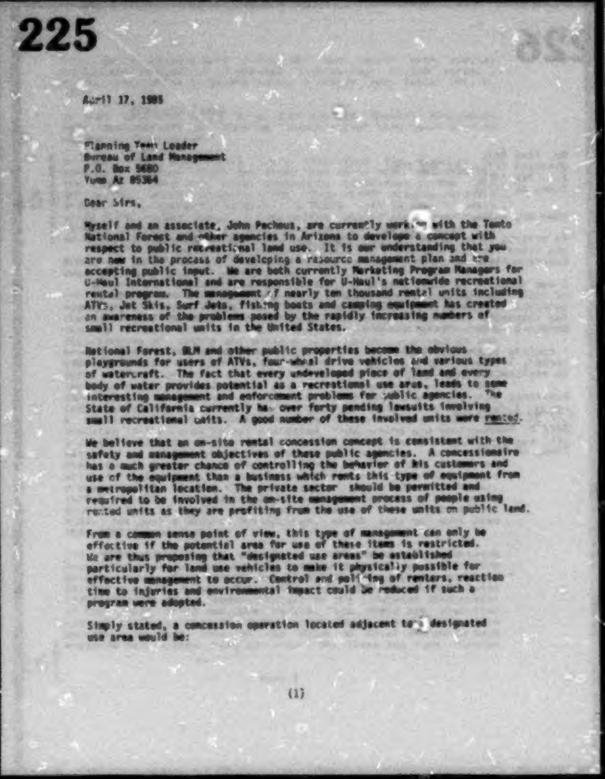
During a recent meeting of the River Development Association held on March 28, 1985, all the members of our association wish to go on record as supporting the "Preferred Alternative Plan" of the Yuma District Resource Management Plan.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for our on-going working relationship to develop our particular Bureau of Land Management Concessions to their highest potentials.

Sincerely,

Phil Younis
President

225



April 17, 1985

Planning Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma Az 85364

Dear Sirs,

Myself and an associate, John Pechous, are currently working with the Tonto National Forest and other agencies in Arizona to develope a concept with respect to public recreational land use. It is our understanding that you are now in the process of developing a resource management plan and are accepting public input. We are both currently Marketing Program Managers for U-Haul International and are responsible for U-Haul's nationwide recreational rental program. The management of nearly ten thousand rental units including ATVs, Jet Skis, Surf Jets, fishing boats and camping equipment has created an awareness of the problems posed by the rapidly increasing numbers of small recreational units in the United States.

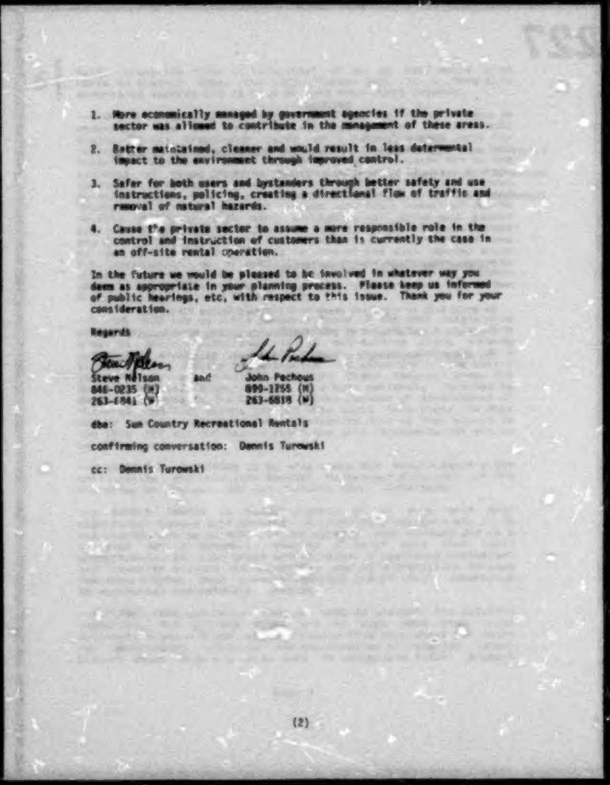
National Forest, BLM and other public properties become the obvious playgrounds for users of ATVs, four-wheel drive vehicles and various types of watercraft. The fact that every undeveloped piece of land and every body of water provides potential as a recreational use area, leads to some interesting management and enforcement problems for public agencies. The State of California currently has over forty pending lawsuits involving small recreational units. A good number of these involved units were rented.

We believe that an on-site rental concession concept is consistent with the safety and management objectives of these public agencies. A concessionaire has a much greater chance of controlling the behavior of his customers and use of the equipment than a business which rents this type of equipment from a metropolitan location. The private sector should be permitted and required to be involved in the on-site management process of people using rented units as they are profiting from the use of these units on public land.

From a common sense point of view, this type of management can only be effective if the potential area for use of these items is restricted. We are thus proposing that "designated use areas" be established particularly for land use vehicles to make it physically possible for effective management to occur. Control and policing of renters, reaction time to injuries and environmental impact could be reduced if such a program were adopted.

Simply stated, a concession operation located adjacent to a designated use area would be:

(1)



1. More economically managed by government agencies if the private sector was allowed to contribute in the management of these areas.
2. Better maintained, cleaner and would result in less determental impact to the environment through improved control.
3. Safer for both users and bystanders through better safety and use instructions, policing, creating a directional flow of traffic and removal of natural hazards.
4. Cause the private sector to assume a more responsible role in the control and instruction of customers than is currently the case in an off-site rental operation.

In the future we would be pleased to be involved in whatever way you deem as appropriate in your planning process. Please keep us informed of public hearings, etc, with respect to this issue. Thank you for your consideration.

Regards

Steve Nelson and John Pechous
846-0235 (H) 899-1755 (H)
263-6841 (W) 263-6818 (W)

dba: Sun Country Recreational Rentals

confirming conversation: Dennis Turowski

cc: Dennis Turowski

(2)

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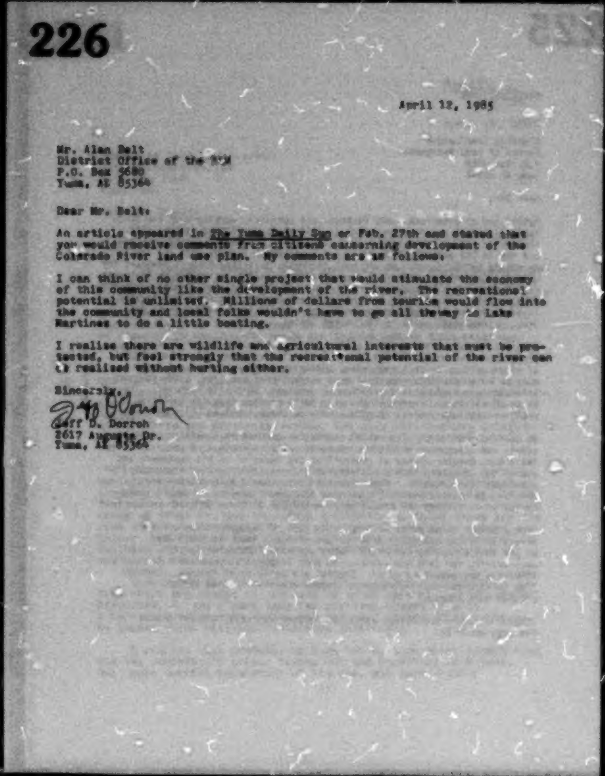


April 12, 1985

Mr. Alan Belt
District Office of the BLM
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, AZ 85364

Dear Mr. Belt:

An article appeared in The Yuma Daily Sun or Feb. 27th and stated that you would receive comments from citizens concerning development of the Colorado River land use plan. My comments are as follows:

I can think of no other single project that would stimulate the economy of this community like the development of the river. The recreational potential is unlimited. Millions of dollars from tourism would flow into the community and local folks wouldn't have to go all the way to Lake Martinez to do a little boating.

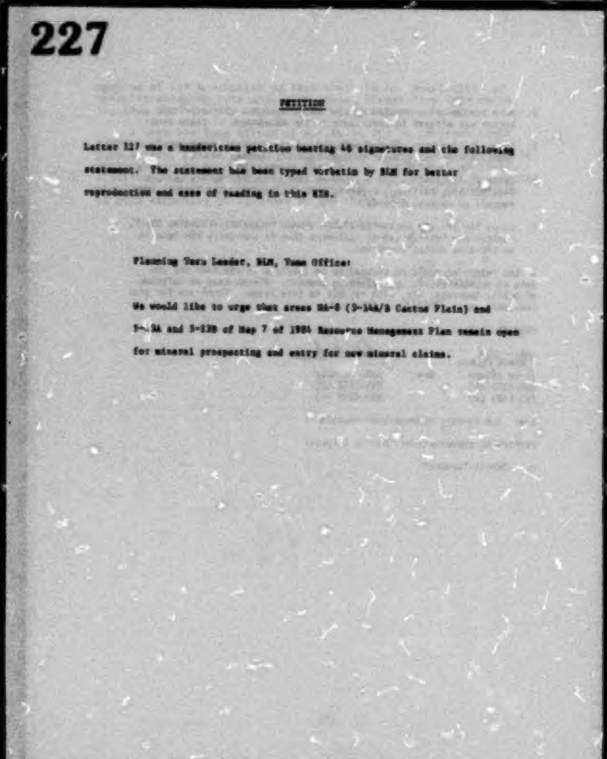
I realize there are wildlife and agricultural interests that must be protected, but feel strongly that the recreational potential of the river can be realized without hurting either.

Sincerely,

Jeff D. Dorroh

Jeff D. Dorroh
2617 Augusta Dr.
Yuma, AZ 85364

227



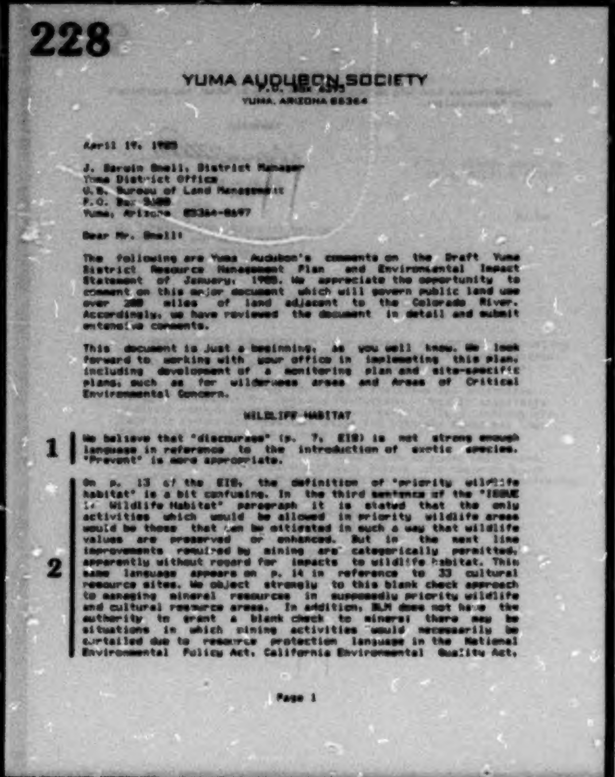
PETITION

Letter 227 was a handwritten petition bearing 46 signatures and the following statement. The statement has been typed verbatim by BLM for better reproduction and ease of reading in this EIS.

Planning Team Leader, BLM, Yuma Office:

We would like to urge that areas HA-8 (S-14A/B Cactus Plain) and S-3A and S-13B of Map 7 of 1984 Resource Management Plan remain open for mineral prospecting and entry for new mineral claims.

228



YUMA AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX [illegible]
YUMA, ARIZONA 85364

April 19, 1985

J. Darwin Snell, District Manager
Yuma District Office
U.S. Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

Dear Mr. Snell:

The following are Yuma Audubon's comments on the Draft Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement of January, 1985. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this major document which will govern public land use over 200 miles of land adjacent to the Colorado River. Accordingly, we have reviewed the document in detail and submit extensive comments.

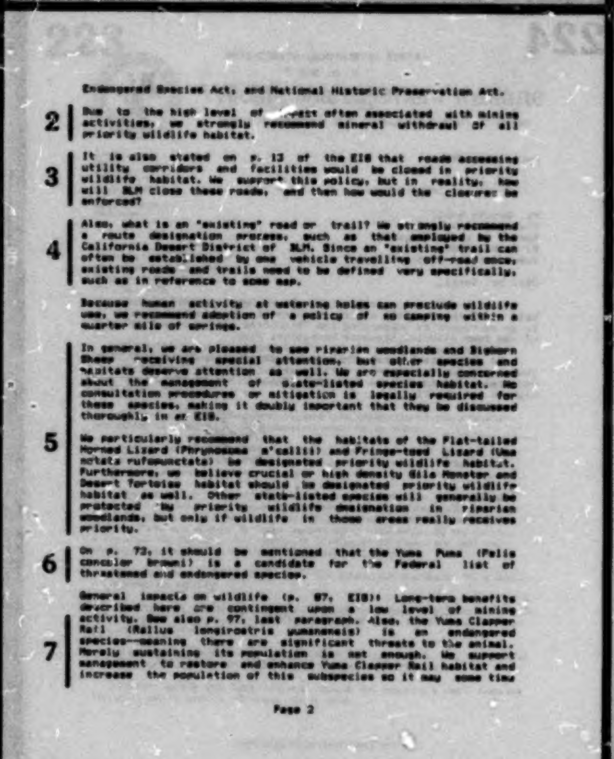
This document is just a beginning, as you well know. We look forward to working with your office in implementing this plan, including development of a monitoring plan and site-specific plans, such as for wilderness areas and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

WILDLIFE HABITAT

1 We believe that "discourage" (p. 7, EIS) is not strong enough language in reference to the introduction of exotic species. "Prevent" is more appropriate.

2 On p. 13 of the EIS, the definition of "priority wildlife habitat" is a bit confusing. In the third sentence of the "ISSUE 1: Wildlife Habitat" paragraph it is stated that the only activities which would be allowed in priority wildlife areas would be those that can be mitigated in such a way that wildlife values are preserved or enhanced. But in the next line improvements required by mining are categorically permitted, apparently without regard for impacts to wildlife habitat. This same language appears on p. 14 in reference to 33 cultural resource sites. We object strongly to this blank check approach to managing mineral resources in supposedly priority wildlife and cultural resource areas. In addition, BLM does not have the authority to grant a blank check to mineral: there may be situations in which mining activities would necessarily be curtailed due to resource protection language in the National Environmental Policy Act, California Environmental Quality Act,

Page 1



Endangered Species Act, and National Historic Preservation Act.

2 Due to the high level of impact often associated with mining activities, we strongly recommend mineral withdrawal of all priority wildlife habitat.

3 It is also stated on p. 13 of the EIS that roads accessing utility corridors and facilities would be closed in priority wildlife habitat. We support this policy, but in reality, how will BLM close these roads, and then how would the closures be enforced?

4 Also, what is an "existing" road or trail? We strongly recommend a route designation process, such as that employed by the California Desert District of BLM. Since an "existing" trail can often be established by one vehicle travelling off-road once, existing roads and trails need to be defined very specifically, such as in reference to some map.

Because human activity at watering holes can preclude wildlife use, we recommend adoption of a policy of no camping within a quarter mile of springs.

5 In general, we are pleased to see riparian woodlands and Bighorn Sheep receiving special attention, but other species and habitats deserve attention as well. We are especially concerned about the management of state-listed species habitat. No consultation procedures or mitigation is legally required for these species, making it doubly important that they be discussed thoroughly in an EIS.

We particularly recommend that the habitats of the Flat-tailed Horned Lizard (Phrynosoma m'callii) and Fringe-toed Lizard (Uma notata rufopunctata) be designated priority wildlife habitat. Furthermore, we believe crucial or high density Gila Monster and Desert Tortoise habitat should be designated priority wildlife habitat as well. Other state-listed species will generally be protected by priority wildlife designation in riparian woodlands, but only if wildlife in those areas really receives priority.

6 On p. 72, it should be mentioned that the Yuma Puma (Felis concolor browni) is a candidate for the Federal list of threatened and endangered species.

General impacts on wildlife (p. 87, EIS): Long-term benefits described here are contingent upon a low level of mining activity. See also p. 97, last paragraph. Also, the Yuma Clapper

7 Rail (Rallus longirostris yumanensis) is an endangered species—meaning there are significant threats to the animal. Merely sustaining its population is not enough. We support management to restore and enhance Yuma Clapper Rail habitat and increase the population of this subspecies so it may some time

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7 in the future be considered no longer endangered.

8 On p. 90, impacts from minerals and energy activities need to be discussed. This is true for the other alternatives as well. As mentioned above, mining could be a serious impact to wildlife habitat, even in priority habitat areas.

9 The wildlife mitigation section on p. 135 needs to be expanded considerably. Mitigation policy needs to be established for impacts from recreational development, mining, energy development, grazing, and other activities. The level of mitigation should be quantified as well. We recommend mitigation at more than 75% of lost habitat units.

10 On p. 240, Appendix E, it should be noted that the Flat-tailed Horned Lizard and Fringe-toed Lizard are both Group 3 Arizona listed species and Category 2 candidate species for the Federal list. On pp. 249 and 250, Appendix F, the source (BLM 1984) given for these species lists is not cited in the references section.

GRAZING

We recommend a number of changes in the Preferred Alternative grazing element.

11 Ephemeral allotments. The EIS does not discuss the effect of ephemeral grazing on wildlife. For example, how does cattle grazing impact Desert Tortoises who also rely on ephemeral plants? Why doesn't BLM allocate forage for Desert Tortoises? Nothing is presented on vegetative condition and apparent trend in condition for the ephemeral allotments in the Yuma District. What role does variation in vegetation play in the ecology of wildlife in the Yuma District? Research by Danita Hardy of the University of Arizona indicates that green vegetation but not water is a limiting factor in reproduction of Round-tailed Ground Squirrels (Journal of the Arizona-Nevada Academy of Science, Proceedings Supplement, p. 25, 1985).

Given all these unknowns, we recommend that ephemeral livestock grazing be eliminated from the Yuma District. Some of these ephemeral allotments have not even been used for a number of years, such as Lake Havasu North and Lake Havasu South (EIS, p. 190). Not only would wildlife utilize this vegetation for food and cover, but it would also prevent soil erosion and provide humus in an environment where humus is scarce (see Wallace H. Fuller, Soils of the Desert Southwest, Tucson: University of Arizona Press, pp. 40-41).

Perennial-ephemeral Allotments. We also recommend that increases for ephemeral grazing be eliminated on perennial-ephemeral (P-E) allotments for the reasons mentioned above. We also feel that more needs to be done to improve the condition of the

environment on the P-E allotments than is proposed in the Preferred Alternative.

12 The Muse allotment should be retired from grazing. No use for this purpose has occurred in 5 years, yet 45% of this allotment is still in only fair or poor condition. We disagree with BLM's proposal to put this allotment in the Maintain class--this implies there are no serious resource use conflicts and there will be no change in grazing practices, although we do agree that there should be no change in the grazing practices of the last 5 years since this allotment has gone ungrazed. The Muse allotment includes parts of the Cactus Plain and East Cactus Plain WSAs and these unique habitats should be protected from disturbance.

13 We agree that the condition of the Nine-Mile and Ganado allotments needs to be improved, but not by expanding grazing. Under BLM's proposed action, only 65% of these allotments would be improved to good to excellent condition. This means 35% of these areas would have less than 50% of their potential vegetation. The Ganado allotment in particular needs improving, with 40% of the area in poor to fair condition and most of this in static or even downward trend. Dispersing the cattle into the Cactus Plain wilderness would not be an improvement, but rather than opposite, and we recommend that cattle be kept out of the fragile Cactus Plain and East Cactus Plain WSAs. BLM's improvement plan is a no-win situation--either allow continued overgrazing in Osborne Wash, or disperse the cattle and allow grazing on previously ungrazed areas of the Cactus and La Posa Plains.

14 The Bishop allotment certainly needs more than just 'custodial' management. 30% of it is in poor to fair condition, none of it is in excellent condition, and its trend is 100% static. This is clearly undesirable.

Given the generally poor quality of the vegetation in these allotments, along with the fact that it takes over 900 acres to support one cow, we question the economic and ecological viability of trying to support large, exotic herbivores in the driest desert of the United States when there were no functional equivalents of cattle under pre-European contact conditions (at least not since the Pleistocene, when the climate and vegetation were different). We believe that BLM's planning goal should be to return all allotments to excellent condition as soon as possible, including through the elimination or at the least, reduction of grazing.

SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS

We feel all fifteen Special Management Areas are worthy of designation as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). It is ironic that the 1975 Yuma District Management Framework

Plan would protect more areas and more acres with special management designation (Preferred Alternative: 31,360 acres, 3 areas; Alternative A: 32,840 acres, 4 areas; see Table 2-1, p. 15).

We also note that while on p. 3 of the EIS Special Management Area designations are seen as 'restrictive' they could also be viewed as 'protective.'

15 We feel that BLM should have resurveyed the district to determine whether there are areas that merit ACEC designation. The areas in this plan were apparently identified in the 1975 MFP (p. 40) which predates FLPMA. Since FLPMA clearly mandates priority consideration be given to ACECs (it is now 9 years since FLPMA became law), a new survey should have been made. Perhaps this also explains why there were so few potential (not to mention recommended) ACECs in the EIS.

BLM's own descriptions of these Special Management Areas are the best recommendation for designation.

--> CROSSMAN PEAK includes some areas outside the WSA which we recommend for wilderness. It has unusual plants and animals, including the Singleaf Pinyon (Pinus monophylla). This is clearly of more than local significance because the extremes of distribution of plants and animals and relict populations can provide important data to scientists seeking to understand plant distribution and classification, climates, and evolution. The three reptiles of special concern also give this area more than local interest, special worth, and concern. The cultural values, sacredness to the Mohave people, also lend this area more than local significance, special worth, meaning, distinctiveness, and a cause for concern that these spiritual values could be violated if the area is not protected from mining and vehicular incursion. Finally, since Bighorn Sheep are greatly sought by watchers of wildlife and hunters, again this area is of more than local concern. It has cultural, scenic, and fish and wildlife values and exhibits other natural systems and processes, all of more than local concern (see 43 CFR 1702(a), 1610.7-2). We agree with BLM's recommendation to designate Crossman Peak a Special Management Area, but it should be an ACEC, not just a Natural Scenic Area, which means so much less than ACEC designation.

--> AUBREY HILLS should also be an ACEC. Many people driving from Parker to Lake Havasu City pass by this area and admire its scenic values. Thes people come from all over Arizona, southern California, and during the winter, the northern United States and Canada. It is a needed contrast to the intensive development of the Parker Strip and Lake Havasu City. There are also fish and wildlife values in that Bighorn Sheep are present. The boundary also goes down to the Colorado River and would help

16 preserve naturalness along the river. Are there any Yuma Clapper

16 Rails along the river in this area? If so, an ACEC would also serve to protect them. The Yuma Clapper Rail is a Federally endangered species and is thus of more than local interest.

--> WHIPPLE MOUNTAINS is a unique area and we find it hard to understand how BLM could neglect recommending it for ACEC status. It has tremendous value as a natural system with its 'Arizona' vegetation in California, including Saguaro and Foothill Palo Verde. It is another area where plants are at the extremes of their ranges and for this reason is of great scientific interest. Also of scientific interest are the woodrat middens which help in reconstructing past climatic and vegetation history. Cultural values are also important in the Whipple Mountains with many archaeological sites and sacred meaning to the Yuman Indians. Add to this Desert Bighorn Sheep and an area that extends to the Colorado River, where there may be Yuma Clapper Rails, and this is one of the most worthy areas for designation as an ACEC. Its national significance is also attested to by inclusion in THE SIERRA CLUB GUIDE TO THE NATURAL AREAS OF CALIFORNIA by John Perry and Jane Greverus Perry (San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1983).

--> THE MESA has by BLM's Judgment 'some of the most outstanding scenic features in the Havasu Resource Area' (EIS, p. 61). This area is truly exceptional to be outstanding among already outstanding areas. It is highly scenic, looming above the Bill Williams River (which has attracted the attention of The Nature Conservancy), and contains a Bighorn Sheep lambing area. The Buckskin Mountain Bighorn Sheep have been seriously impacted by denial of access to the Colorado River because of development of the area, and ACEC status for The Mesa would help them. The Mesa was at least recommended for Outstanding Natural Area status in the 1975 MFP and BLM hasn't shown why this recommendation should be changed now.

--> GIBRALTAR MOUNTAINS is an area where BLM should acquire the split estate and make this Special Management Area part of the Gibraltar wilderness. See our comments under wilderness.

--> BANDED CANYON is another example of an area with such significant values that we find it hard to understand why it is not recommended as an ACEC. It has already been recommended as a National Natural Landmark, showing it is of more than local significance. It has great scenic value, illustrates geological and riparian systems and processes, and is a transition between two desert types. Such zones of contact are of great importance to ecological and botanical studies.

--> PLANET PEAK should be made an ACEC to protect its wildlife resources. The Bighorn Sheep are of much more than local interest. Bighorn Sheep attract people from throughout the state for observation, hunting, and construction of watering tanks; Bighorn Sheep herds are also used to repopulate former Bighorn range. However, we do recommend that the portion of Picacho Peak SMA which overlaps the Buenos WSA should be made part of the Buenos Wilderness Area, this also protecting the wildlife values. See our comments under wilderness.

--> CACTUS PLAIN WSA overlaps the SMA and the whole area should be designated wilderness. See our comments under Wilderness.

--> LA POSA PLAIN should be designated an ACEC. Its similarity to the Cactus Plain is one good reason for such designation, since it represents a rare and unique habitat type. Protecting it would protect natural diversity of the stabilized sand dune habitat. This area was recommended as a Natural Resources Experiment and Research Area in the 1975 MFP and BLM has since given no explanation why it should not be so designated.

--> BIG MARIA MOUNTAINS is the only ACEC recommended by BLM and we endorse its designation. It contains cultural resources of national significance, including geoglyphs. However, for the reasons explained in our comments on Wilderness, we recommend that the Big Marias WSA which overlap part of the Big Marias proposed ACEC be designated wilderness.

--> MILPITAS WASH is of more than local significance because of the habitat variety it provides to California. BLM points out such significance by calling it ". . . one of the largest examples of virtually undisturbed Sonoran Desert remaining in California" (EIS, p. 63). The area takes on national significance by being written about in two books: THE NORTH AMERICAN DESERTS by Edmund Jaeger (Stanford, CA: Stanford University Press, 1957, p. 97) and THE SIERRA CLUB GUIDE TO THE NATURAL AREAS OF CALIFORNIA by John Perry and Jane Greverus Perry (San Francisco: Sierra Club Books, 1983, p. 296). These books receive national distribution. The relative abundance of vegetation in this area also recommends it as an ACEC, along with potential for destruction of the area from ORV use. Such an area is very much worthy of ACEC designation to protect its unique and irreplaceable characteristics.

--> LAGUNA-MARTINEZ is another area that cries out for ACEC designation. This is one of the limited areas of quality riparian habitat still remaining along the Colorado River. As such, it has tremendous value for wildlife and humans who enjoy that wildlife. It is also important to remember that this wildlife value was formerly recognized by designating much of this area part of the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge. This is essential habitat for the endangered Yuma Clapper Rail and the 17 Arizona and California listed Black Rail. It is also an extremely important area for the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, which is on the California state list. The Yellow-billed Cuckoo has been attracting increasing concern in California, giving the Laguna-Martinez area more than local significance. David Gaines and Stephen A. Laymon, who surveyed the whole State of

17 California for Yellow-billed Cuckoos state that "The Yellow-billed Cuckoo is at a critically low population level, not only in California, but in the northern Rocky Mountains, the Great Basin, and the Pacific Northwest as well" ("Decline, Status and Preservation of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo in California," WESTERN BIRDS 15:73, 1984). They further say of the Colorado River Valley: "Survival of the cuckoo in this region will require preservation of habitat" (Ibid., p. 72). They also flatly state that "The . . . center near Laguna needs protection" (Ibid.). I have observed Yellow-billed Cuckoos and heard Black Rail in this area. Further, "Shantytown" and the adjacent area attracts birders from much of California and Arizona, and is especially important to California birders who can see species otherwise rare within their state, such as the Gila Woodpecker, Abert's Towhee, Lucy's Warbler, Bronzed Cowbird, and Brown-crested Flycatcher (see A BIRDER'S GUIDE TO SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA by James Lane, Denver: L & P Press, 1976 and BIRDER'S CALIFORNIA by Don Roberson, Austin: American Birding Association, 1978).

Thus this area has a relevance and importance that is much more than just local, with high scenic and wildlife values and natural systems and processes (riparian). We are especially concerned that this area might be developed to the detriment of the wildlife and vegetation, including the "Shantytown" area which should retain its vegetation to the benefit of wildlife.

--> MUGGINS MOUNTAINS proposed SMA contains a larger area than the Muggins Mountains WSA. The WSA should be designated wilderness, for the reasons listed in our comments on wilderness. The remaining part of the SMA should become an ACEC because of its wildlife, cultural, and scenic values.

--> MOHAWK MOUNTAINS have high scenic values, being seen by people from all over the United States travelling along I-8. Thus their scenic value is of more than local significance. Other than impacts from military activities, the southern part of this range (south of I-8) is fairly well protected because of limited public access. The northern section also needs protection to preserve the integrity of the whole range. BLM doesn't even mention the wildlife values of this area. ACEC status would provide the protection this area needs from potential encroachment.

--> YUMA DESERT should be designated an ACEC because of its significant wildlife and scenic values, as well as its exemplification of a natural system and its processes. As Yuma expands, the habitat this area represents will become rare. Plants such as Sand Food (Ammobroma sonorae) and reptiles such as the Flat-tailed Horned Lizard and Fringe-toed Lizard either occur or may occur in this area and ACEC status would protect some of their range, which is continually shrinking. Euphorbia platysperma may occur in this area. This area also provides

scenic views of the Gila Mountains and the horizon extends all the way to Sonora. The Sand Food is also a food of importance to the Papago Indians and was formerly used by them. Thus the area is also of historic significance. This area was recommended as a Natural Resources Experiment and Research Area in the 1975 MFP and BLM presents no rationale for not designating it as such. It should at least be given that status unless BLM can give valid contrary reasons. 18

19 The plants occurring in this area (and in other SMAs) would apparently benefit from special management policies in Alternative C. (EIS, p. 118, Table 4-23). What exactly are these management policies, and if they could be included in Alternative C, which is biased towards production, why are they not included in the Preferred Alternative which is supposedly a more balanced management approach?

20 --> GILA MOUNTAINS is not an area considered by BLM for Special Management designation, but should be recommended as an ACEC. The area we are recommending is WSAs 5-39 and 5-40 as delineated in the Intensive Inventory. This area has high natural values, including Elephant Tree (Bursera microphylla) and there is Kearney Sumac (Rhus kearneyi), an extremely rare plant, in the Gila Mountains. Certainly the presence of Kearney Sumac would give this area national significance and be of great scientific value. The area to the north of I-8 needs to be protected from encroachment. It is also very scenic to travellers along I-8, again of national significance because of the wide areas they come from. ACEC status would also preserve the Gila Mountains as a scenic backdrop for Yuma, much as the Crossman Peak area is a backdrop for Lake Havasu City.

Finally, we would like to mention that the Yuma District contains nearly 2.7 million acres. Surely 18 ACECs (including our recommendation for the Gila Mountains) is not excessive when you consider that the California Desert District contains 12.1 million acres and 72 ACECs.

We feel that all 16 of the above areas are worthy of formal recognition and the security that such recognition and ACEC plans would provide. Since we have not seen the "management 21 prescriptions" that BLM proposes for 5 of these areas, we cannot determine whether they would provide sufficient protection. If these areas are worthy of recognition (and they are) they should be designated ACECs, rather than relying on more easily altered and weaker "management prescriptions."

VEGETATION

We strongly urge BLM to designate priority management areas to all T & E and sensitive plants in the Yuma District. This could be done through wilderness management or ACEC designation, the

latter if confined to a small area.

22 Are there riparian areas along the Colorado, Gila, and Bill Williams Rivers which would not be managed as priority habitat? If so, they should be managed as priority riparian habitat.

On p. 8 (Threatened and Endangered Plants), it should be mentioned that the Endangered Species Act requires consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service in a "may affect" situation.

BLM should work with the Bureau of Reclamation and the State of Arizona to determine the status and distribution of Euphorbia platysperma. Our information is that it has only been found in two places in the world--near the mouth of the Colorado River in Arizona and in California at another location. So little is known of this plant that it could disappear (if it hasn't already), if it is indeed as rare as it seems.

23 Opuntia wigginsii also needs protection. This cactus species wasn't even recognized until 1969 and much more needs to be known about its distribution and requirements before destroying areas in which it occurs. Again, wilderness and/or ACEC designation would protect this species, especially if written into a management plan.

Bursera microphylla would receive protection by being included in our proposed Gila Mountains ACEC, as very likely would Rhus kearneyi.

The cactus species (Cereus greggii, Coryphantha vivipara alversonii, Ferocactus acanthodes acanthodes, and Opuntia wigginsii) also need to be protected, and in some cases wilderness and ACEC designation would do so--but not the Preferred Alternative. The public also needs to be educated as to the importance of leaving these cacti where they are rather than collecting them.

Pholisma arenarium would be protected in part by designating the Cactus Plain as wilderness.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

We feel that all areas of high cultural resource value or potential should be protected by ACECs. BLM needs to survey unsurveyed areas to determine what is there. Areas of moderate cultural resource value or concentration should be protected through management guidelines, and some of these should also be ACECs. As a minimum, we feel that all areas identified in Alternative E of the December 9, 1983 Resource Management Plan report should be designated ACECs and withdrawn from mineral entry, along with any other high value or high potential areas.

It goes without saying that National Register listed or eligible sites should be ACECs. The Yuma District has many priceless and vulnerable cultural resources, not just those in the Big Marias.

The religious concerns of American Indian groups over sacred areas, such as archaeological sites and mountains, should also be accommodated.

WILDERNESS

All 10 WSAs should be recommended by BLM for wilderness. As we show below, many of the management difficulties which BLM mentions could be resolved. We feel that rather than trying to resolve these difficulties BLM took the easy way out by recommending against almost every WSA in the Yuma District. We also find it curious that BLM is more concerned about whether there is wilderness within a 5-6 hour drive of Phoenix or Las Vegas than whether there are wilderness areas close to the cities and towns of the Yuma District so that people won't have to drive to the Prescott National Forest or Organ Pipe National Monument in order to enter a wilderness area.

Moreover, BLM claims conflicts with mineral potential or values in many of these WSAs. But nowhere in the EIS is there an indication of mineral potential and production outside the WSAs. The WSAs have been through a rigorous screening process involving several cuts of areas. Then came the IBLA and Watt decisions to drop yet more areas. A 100,000 acre WSA in the Yuma District was dropped because of those decisions. What remains as WSAs is only the most outstanding. We can't say that for BLM's mineral evaluations of these WSAs, because non-WSA areas were never compared with the WSAs.

BLM's wilderness recommendations for the Yuma District are the paltriest since the Arizona Strip recommendations. There are 10 WSAs, but BLM proposes only two for wilderness. One of these is only 960 acres and the other has been reduced in size. The table below shows the meagreness of the Yuma District's recommendations in comparison with other BLM Districts in Arizona and southern California:

DISTRICT	ALL WSAS		BLM PROPOSED WILDERNESS		% OF ALL WSA ACRES PROPOSED BY BLM
	No.	Acres	No.	Acres	
AZ Strip	44	77[illegible],148	8	26,016	3.7
CA Desert	137	5,700,000	45	2,099,000	36.8
Phoenix	36	1,365,000	16	498,610	36.5
Safford	9	131,420	3	34,801	26.4
Yuma	[illegible]	285,103	2	71,910	25.1

Sources: Arizona Strip Wilderness Study Areas Draft EIS (1982); The California Desert Conservation Area Plan (1980); Upper Sonoran Draft Wilderness EIS (1982); Phoenix Draft Wilderness EIS (1984); Lower Gila South Resource Management Plan Draft EIS (1985); Safford District Draft Wilderness EIS (1983); Draft Yuma District Resource Management Plan (1985).

DEAD MOUNTAINS NORTH (WSA 5-1) AND DEAD MOUNTAINS SOUTH (WSA 5-2)

BLM should recommend that if the adjacent Dead Mountains WSA in the California Desert District becomes wilderness, so should these two units. The only rationale BLM has for recommending against these units is that without the adjacent CDCA WSA they are too small to be outstanding, and that the adjacent BLM WSA has not been recommended by the California Desert District.

However, if the adjacent WSA were designated wilderness, there are no conflicts to keep BLM from recommending these adjacent units. Both units lack man-made developments, are not grazed, have low recreational use and are too far from populated areas to attract it in the future, have low mineral, oil and gas, and geothermal potential and no mining claims, and all mineral leases are post-FLPMA which requires nonimpairment of wilderness values. Yet these areas would preserve the integrity of the Dead Mountains as a unit, have Desert Tortoise as a subsidiary value (contrary to BLM's claim that this WSA lacks special features), and are already withdrawn from mining.

BLM has also created a no-win rationale for wilderness by claiming on one hand (as with this WSA) that man-made boundaries (such as roads and utility lines) detract from the solitude of a wilderness area while on the other hand claiming that more natural boundaries are hard to identify (as with other WSAs).

BLM also never states the rationale for the Alternative D proposal which contains only 40 acres. What conflict that BLM perceives would be resolved by this alternative, and why was it rejected?

CHEMEHUEVI MOUNTAINS (WSA 5-3)

BLM rejects this WSA for wilderness on the grounds that its wilderness values are low and the Bureau of Reclamation wants it for a quarry.

Yet, this WSA has an overwhelming number of characteristics that proclaim it should be wilderness. While BLM claims it lacks supplemental features, there are Bighorn Sheep, Desert Tortoises, and a moderate potential for cultural resources. While on p. 66 of the EIS the adjacent California Desert District WSA is stated to be unsuitable, we discover in Appendix B that in fact this WSA is recommended as suitable by BLM in Riverside. This, by BLM's own reckoning, increases the wilderness quality of WSA 5-3 to moderate, not low. Nowhere does BLM present a convincing case that this natural area is the only place the Bureau of Reclamation can use for a quarry. A less natural area would be much more suitable for a Reclamation quarry site. Other conflicts are nonexistent for this WSA: there are no man-made developments, roads, or vehicle ways; there is

no grazing allotment. Including this WSA in the Chemehuevi Mountains Wilderness of the California Desert District would make the boundary more manageable (BLM has thrown out other WSAs because they have "unmanageable" boundaries--here is an opportunity to contribute to the manageability of a wilderness area, and BLM wants to forego it!); there are no mining claims, no mineral occurrences, no mineral potential, and low oil, gas, and geothermal potential; the oil and gas leases are post-FLPMA; and the area is unattractive to ORV users. This area is just as worthy as WSA 5-4 and BLM should recommend it for wilderness.

CHEMEHUEVI/NEEDLES (WSA 5-4)

We agree with BLM that all of this WSA should be designated wilderness. It should be pointed out that there is an error on p. 66 of the EIS where it is stated that the adjacent California Desert District WSA was recommended as unsuitable. Our reasons for recommending this WSA for wilderness are the same as for WSA 5-3: the area would add to the quality of the adjacent Chemehuevi Mountains WSA in the California Desert District and the lack of conflicts and its values outweigh nondesignation.

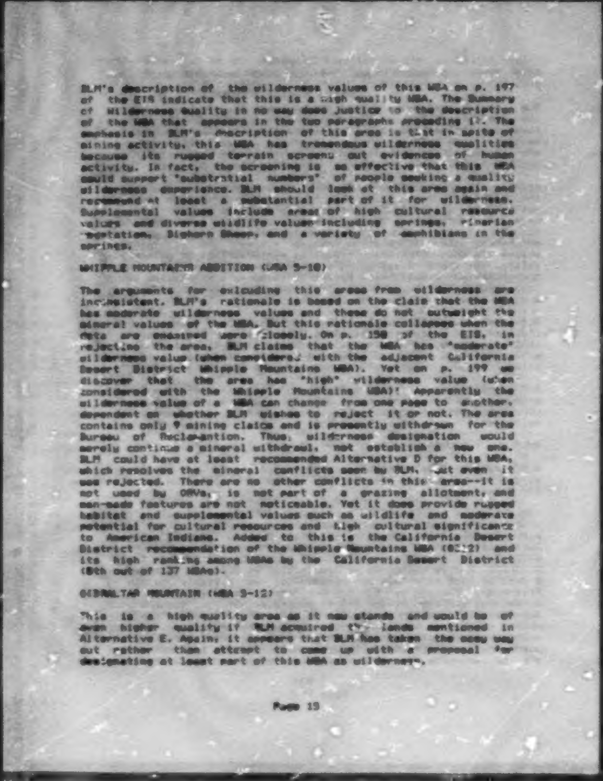
CROSSMAN PEAK (WSA 5-7B)

The analysis BLM provides for this area is curious. After stating why BLM feels this area is unmanageable as wilderness, the EIS then goes on to be a very strong case for designating this area wilderness. BLM's rationale for rejecting this area can in fact be reversed by looking closely at the arguments against designation, and certainly a large part of this WSA could have been recommended for wilderness by BLM.

BLM says that there is high mineral potential in part of the area and 212 mining claims that would make the area hard to manage. However, the vast majority (174) of those claims are post-FLPMA. BLM also admits that the areas of mining interest and limited, and not spread over the whole WSA. Moreover, we discover that most of the claims are inactive.

BLM also states that the area would be difficult to manage because of cherry-stemmed roads and vehicle ways. But of 5 roads, 2 have been only irregularly maintained, and the vehicle ways follow washes, with evidence of vehicle use unnoticeable except after recent use. This also weakens BLM's argument that a vehicle way and road nearly bisect the WSA, since the "vehicle way" apparently isn't that noticeable.

The WSA also includes 3 ephemeral grazing allotments, but 2 of these haven't been used recently, and there are no improvements planned for the other grazing allotment. Thus, wilderness designation would have no effect on grazing use.



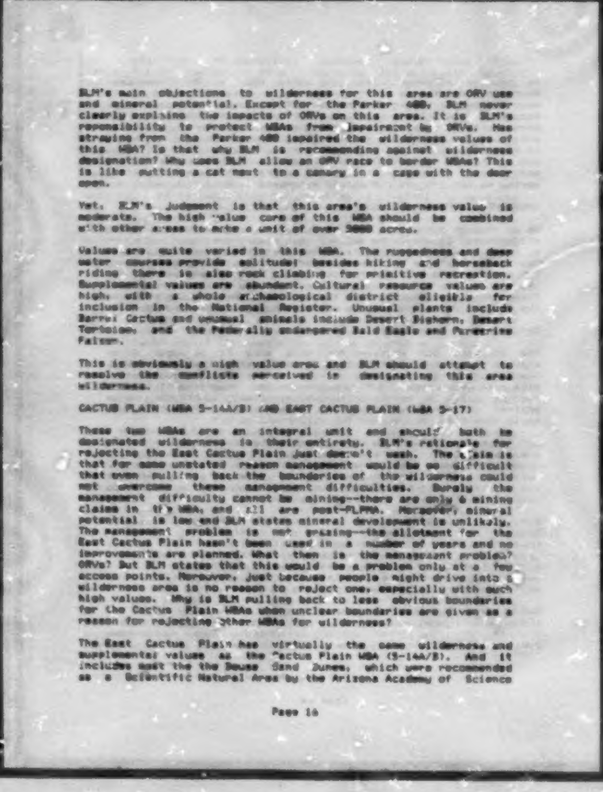
BLM's description of the wilderness values of this WSA on p. 197 of the EIS indicate that this is a high quality WSA. The Summary of Wilderness Quality in no way does justice to the description of the WSA that appears in the two paragraphs preceding it. The emphasis in BLM's description of this area is that in spite of mining activity, this WSA has tremendous wilderness qualities because its rugged terrain screens out evidences of human activity. In fact, the screening is so effective that this WSA could support "substantial numbers" of people seeking a quality wilderness experience. BLM should look at this area again and recommend at least a substantial part of it for wilderness. Supplemental values include areas of high cultural resource values and diverse wildlife values including springs, riparian vegetation, Bighorn Sheep, and a variety of amphibians in the springs.

WHIPPLE MOUNTAINS ADDITION (WSA 5-10)

The arguments for excluding this areas from wilderness are inconsistent. BLM's rationale is based on the claim that the WSA has moderate wilderness values and these do not outweight the mineral values of the WSA. But this rationale collapses when the data are examined more closely. On p. 198 of the EIS, in rejecting the area, BLM claims that the WSA has "moderate" wilderness value (when considered with the adjacent California Desert District Whipple Mountains WSA). Yet on p. 199 we discover that the area has "high" wilderness value (when considered with the Whipple Mountains WSA)! Apparently the wilderness value of a WSA can change from one page to another, dependent on whether BLM wishes to reject it or not. The area contains only 9 mining claims and is presently withdrawn for the Bureau of Reclamantion. Thus, wilderness designation would merely continue a mineral withdrawl, not establish a new one. BLM could have at least recommended Alternative D for this WSA, which resolves the mineral conflicts seen by BLM, but even it was rejected. There are no other conflicts in this area--it is not used by ORVs, is not part of a grazing allotment, and man-made features are not noticeable. Yet it does provide rugged habitat and supplemental values such as wildlife and moderate potential for cultural resources and high cultural significance to American Indians. Added to this is the California Desert District recommendation of the Whipple Mountains WSA (C312) and its high ranking among WSAs by the California Desert District (8th out of 137 WSAs).

GIBRALTAR MOUNTAIN (WSA 5-12)

This is a high quality area as it now stands and would be of even higher quality if BLM acquired the lands mentioned in Alternative E. Again, it appears that BLM has taken the easy way out rather than attempt to come up with a proposal for designating at least part of this WSA as wilderness.



BLM's main objections to wilderness for this area are ORV use and mineral potential. Except for the Parker 400, BLM never clearly explains the impacts of ORVs on this area. It is BLM's responsibility to protect WSAs from impairment by ORVs. Has straying from the Parker 400 impaired the wilderness values of this WSA? Is that why BLM is recommending against wilderness designation? Why does BLM allow an ORV race to border WSAs? This is like putting a cat next to a canary in a cage with the door open.

Yet, BLM's judgment is that this area's wilderness value is moderate. The high value core of this WSA should be combined with other areas to make a unit of over 5000 acres.

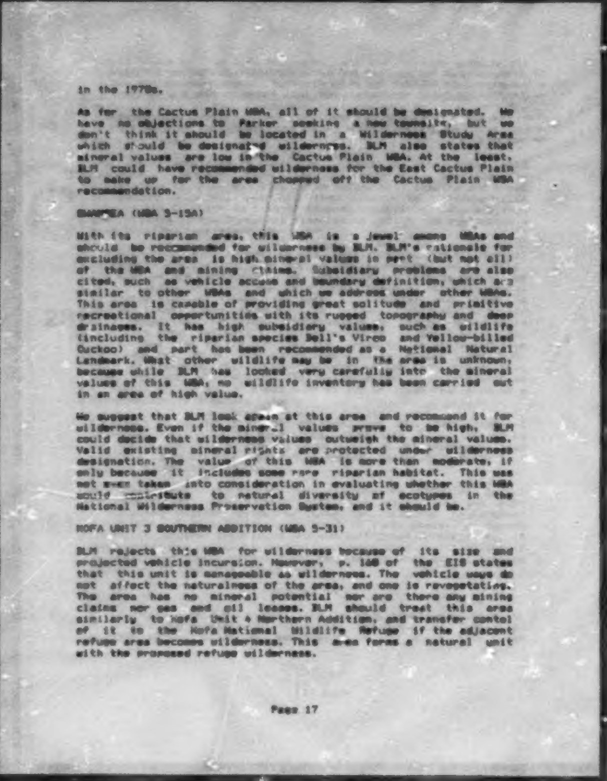
Values are quite varied in this WSA. The ruggedness and deep water courses provide solitude; besides hiking and horseback riding there is also rock climbing for primitive recreation. Supplemental values are abundant. Cultural resource values are high, with a whole archaeological district eligible for inclusion in the National Register. Unusual plants include Barrel Cactus and unusual animals include Desert Bighorn, Desert Tortoise, and the Federally endangered Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon.

This is obviously a high value area and BLM should attempt to resolve the conflicts perceived in designating this area wilderness.

CACTUS PLAIN (WSA 5-14A/B) AND EAST CACTUS PLAIN (WSA 5-17)

These two WSAs are an integral unit and should both be designated wilderness in their entirety. BLM's rationale for rejecting the East Cactus Plain just doesn't wash. The claim is that for some unstated reason management would be so difficult that even pulling back the boundaries of the wilderness could not overcome these management difficulties. Surely the management difficulty cannot be mining--there are only 6 mining claims in the WSA, and all are post-FLPMA. Moreover, mineral potential is low and BLM states mineral development is unlikely. The management problem is not grazing--the allotment for the East Cactus Plain hasn't been used in a number of years and no improvements are planned. What then is the management problem? ORVs? But BLM states that this would be a problem only at a few access points. Moreover, just because people might drive into a wilderness area is no reason to reject one, especially with such high values. Why is BLM pulling back to less obvious boundaries for the Cactus Plain WSAs when unclear boundaries are given as a reason for rejecting other WSAs for wilderness?

The East Cactus Plain has virtually the same wilderness and supplemental values as the Cactus Plain WSA (5-14A/B). And it includes most the the Bouse Sand Dunes, which were recommended as a Scientific Natural Area by the Arizona Academy of Science



in the 1970s.

As for the Cactus Plain WSA, all of it should be designated. We have no objections to Parker seeking a new townsite, but we don't think it should be located in a Wilderness Study Area which should be designated wilderness. BLM also states that mineral values are low in the Cactus Plain WSA. At the least, BLM could have recommended wilderness for the East Cactus Plain to make up for the area chopped off the Cactus Plain WSA recommendation.

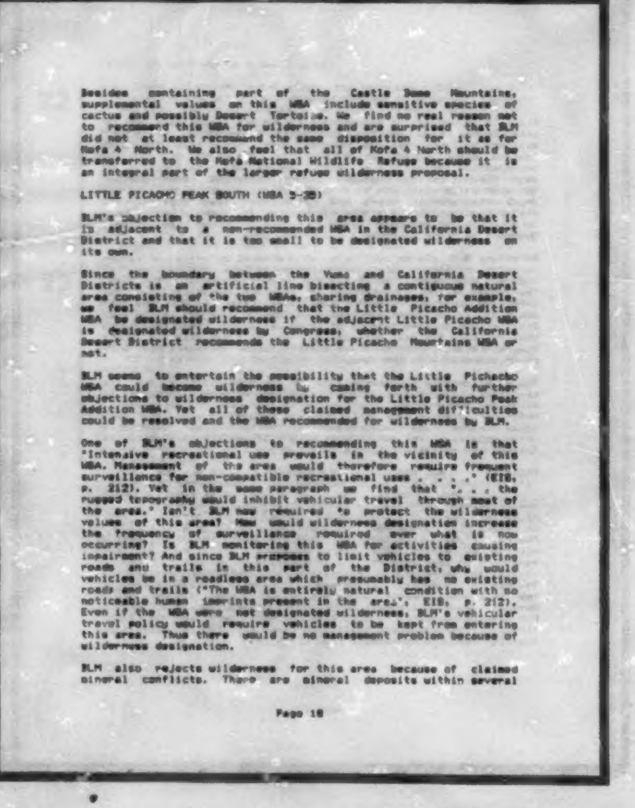
SWANSEA (WSA 5-15A)

With its riparian area, this WSA is a jewel among WSAs and should be recommended for wilderness by BLM. BLM's rationale for excluding the area is high mineral values in part (but not all) of the WSA and mining claims. Subsidiary problems are also cited, such as vehicle access and boundary definition, which are similar to other WSAs and which we address under other WSAs. This area is capable of providing great solitude and primitive recreational opportunities with its rugged topography and deep drainages. It has high subsidiary values, such as wildlife (including the riparian species Bell's Vireo and Yellow-billed Cuckoo) and part has been recommended as a National Natural Landmark. What other wildlife may be in the area is unknown, because while BLM has looked very carefully into the mineral values of this WSA, no wildlife inventory has been carried out in an area of high value.

We suggest that BLM look again at this area and recommend it for wilderness. Even if the mineral values prove to be high, BLM could decide that wilderness values outweigh the mineral values. Valid existing mineral rights are protected under wilderness designation. The value of this WSA is more than moderate, if only because it includes some rare riparian habitat. This was not even taken into consideration in evaluating whether this WSA would contribute to natural diversity of ecotypes in the National Wilderness Preservation System, and it should be.

KOFA UNIT 3 SOUTHERN ADDITION (WSA 5-31)

BLM rejects this WSA for wilderness because of its size and projected vehicle incursion. However, p. 168 of the EIS states that this unit is manageable as wilderness. The vehicle ways do not affect the naturalness of the area, and one is revegetating. The area has no mineral potential nor are there any mining claims nor gas and oil leases. BLM should treat this area similarly to Kofa Unit 4 Northern Addition, and transfer contol of it to the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge if the adjacent refuge area becomes wilderness. This area forms a natural unit with the proposed refuge wilderness.



Besides containing part of the Castle Dome Mountains, supplemental values on this WSA include sensitive species of cactus and possibly Desert Tortoise. We find no real reason not to recommend this WSA for wilderness and are surprised that BLM did not at least recommend the same disposition for it as for Kofa 4 North. We also feel that all of Kofa 4 North should be transferred to the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge because it is an integral part of the larger refuge wilderness proposal.

LITTLE PICACHO PEAK SOUTH (WSA 5-38)

BLM's objection to recommending this area appears to be that it is adjacent to a non-recommended WSA in the California Desert District and that it is too small to be designated wilderness on its own.

Since the boundary between the Yuma and California Desert Districts is an artificial line bisecting a contiguous natural area consisting of the two WSAs, sharing drainages, for example, we feel BLM should recommend that the Little Picacho Addition WSA be designated wilderness if the adjacent Little Picacho WSA is designated wilderness by Congress, whether the California Desert District recommends the Little Picacho Mountains WSA or not.

BLM seems to entertain the possibility that the Little Pichacho WSA could become wilderness by coming forth with further objections to wilderness designation for the Little Picacho Peak Addition WSA. Yet all of these claimed management difficulties could be resolved and the WSA recommended for wilderness by BLM.

One of BLM's objections to recommending this WSA is that "Intensive recreational use prevails in the vicinity of this WSA. Management of the area would therefore require frequent surveillance for non-compatible recreational uses . . . ." (EIS, p. 212). Yet in the same paragraph we find that ". . . the rugged topography would inhibit vehicular travel through most of the area." Isn't BLM now required to protect the wilderness values of this area? How would wilderness designation increase the frequency of surveillance required over what is now occurring? Is BLM monitoring this WSA for activities causing impairment? And since BLM proposes to limit vehicles to existing roads and trails in this part of the District, why would vehicles be in a roadless area which presumably has no existing roads and trails ("The WSA is entirely natural condition with no noticeable human imprints present in the area", EIS, p. 212). Even if the WSA were not designated wilderness, BLM's vehicular travel policy would require vehicles to be kept from entering this area. Thus there would be no management problem because of wilderness designation.

BLM also rejects wilderness for this area because of claimed mineral conflicts. There are mineral deposits within several miles of the WSA and the area is judged to have a "moderate" potential for minerals but low potential for oil, gas, and geothermal energy sources. Yet most of the WSA is under mineral withdrawl by the Bureau of Reclamation, the mineral potential is not high, and there are only four mining claims. The gas lease on the WSA is post-FLPMA and must thus be administered so as not to impair wilderness values.

This WSA has high wilderness value with its neighboring area in the California Desert District. It is rugged and would provide outstanding solitude and primitive recreation. It also has supplemental values such as a rare cactus, Bighorn Sheep habitat, and considerable cultural resource potential.

The EIS never explains why Alternative D for this area was rejected by BLM. Was D an attempt to resolve what BLM sees as the management problems of this area, such as by excluding the flatter areas accessible to ORVs? At the least, BLM could have recommended Alternative D if this was the case, but instead the whole area was thrown out. This WSA should be recommended for wilderness if the adjacent CDCA WSA becomes wilderness.

MUGGINS MOUNTAINS (WSA 5-53A)

This is another area in which BLM's claimed management problems appear to be resolvable. The EIS states (p. 159), "While wilderness values are high in the unit's core, they are not sufficient to outweigh mineral potential or management problems associated with the large number (283 as of November 1982) of mining claims. It would also be difficult to close several vehicle ways to ORV traffic." Yet the U.S. Geological Survey has determined that mineral potential of this area is low, with the exception of moderate uranium and thorium potential in a very small part of the WSA. How can low mineral potential outweigh high wilderness values?

All of the mining claims in the WSA are post-FLPMA. All these claims, if developed (and the mineral potential is low) must not impair wilderness values because they are post-FLPMA. This gives BLM the management tool necessary to prevent adverse impacts to wilderness values in this area.

As for vehicle incursion, if necessary, BLM could have recommended cherrystemming the vehicle ways. However, these are vehicle ways, not roads. Are they "established" roads or trails under BLM's criteria for vehicle travel in this area? Since BLM proposes to restrict vehicles to existing roads and trails in this area, we suspect that these vehicle ways would not qualify as "existing" and BLM would have to keep vehicles out of this WSA even if it were not recommended for wilderness in order to enforce the vehicular travel part of the RMP.

Thus, we feel this WSA should be recommended for wilderness. It high wilderness values are amply documented in BLM's own EIS, including outstanding solitude and primitive recreation, including rock climbing, and supplemental values, such as a species of cactus (the Wiggins Cholla) which wasn't even known to exist until 1965 and an area of high concentration of archaeological sites.

Surprisingly, BLM appears to have attempted to resolve the claimed management conflicts through Alternatives C and D, yet then rejected both of these alternatives for this WSA. Why?

Time prevents us from evaluating BLM's rationale for the remaining WSAs. Both Trigo WSAs would certainly be high on our list of areas that should be designated wilderness. However, we would be happy to sit down with BLM and other interests and explain why we feel these WSAs should be designated wilderness. We feel BLM should throw out their recommendations in this plan and get the affected interests together to talk seriously about where the real conflicts are. This approach was used concerning the Arizona Strip wilderness proposal and much more wilderness was eventually designated by Congress than BLM recommended.

RIGHTS OF WAY FOR UTILITY CORRIDORS AND COMMUNICAION SITES

We are opposed to use of corridors in proposed Special Management Areas or Wilderness Study Areas. Corridor UC-28 through the Crossman Peak area and UC-5, which traverses the Cactus Plain, should not be authorized.

Yuma Audubon is strongly opposed to the proliferation of transmission lines and pipelines through the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge. We believe corridor UC-7 along I-10 should be the preferred route through this area. The Palo Verde-Devers route (UC-8) seriously disrupts the integrity of the refuge, which is also an agency-endorsed wilderness area. To avoid impacts to this sensitive area, the recently proposed All American/Celeron pipeline will be routed along I-10, even though the monetary costs would be lower if they took the route through the refuge. We recommend that no further facilities be constructed in corridor UC-8.

24 The section on p. 18 does not say which corridors are existing and which are proposed. We need this information to properly assess environmental impacts. In addition, what is the expected demand for utility and communication sites in the near future?

Generally, we are in favor of locating utility corridors along highways, canals, or through urban and agricultural areas as opposed to desert areas.

We object to the concept of locating utility and communication facilities anywhere it is convenient (see p. 27, Issue 5). Even

in a production-oriented alternative it makes sense to concentrate this use into corridors so that other lands can be utilized for other purposes.

The Marine Corps Air Station is considering expansion of air space through which they fly low-level maneuvers. We believe this expansion should not occur on BLM lands. Low-level flights disturb wildlife and detract from recreation, wilderness, and aesthetic values.

RECREATION

General Objectives

25 The Preferred Alternative has a dangerous loophole. "provide additional lands for recreation where warranted by increased demands." With increased winter visitor numbers and the Colorado River as an attraction, one could project an infinite demand for more and more Federal recreation sites. The demand is encouraged by providing free or cheap long-term use which makes public lands more desirable than the abundant privately owned sites which charge more. With such lack of realistic limits on how much recreation the Yuma District can support, the sole function of BLM could become recreation and all personnel would be used to monitor and maintain recreational sites. Some limits needs to be established, as we suggest below.

Alternative A seems more desirable as it would accomodate "existing use but not encourage additional use." However, this wording is unclear. A better verb would be "authorize" rather than "encourage" as Alternative A leads one to believe that additional sites would be authorized if "need" arises although BLM would not actively encourage further development. Alternative D is more practical by adding the feature of using existing sites where no severe resource degradation occurs. No expansion would be authorized. BLM would be free to maintain and monitor existing sites.

Long-term Visitor Use

The Preferred Alternative states that LTVAs will continue and visitors will be directed to these areas. By not specifically stating that there will be no expansion or additions to these areas, room may be left in the Preferred Alternative for more such areas.

Only Alternatives C, D, and E state that no more LTVAs will be established. E states there will be no expansion of existing areas. It is difficult to see how any additional recreational development can be anything but a "significant impact to natural values" (p. 28). It is stated that if this happens, development will not be allowed. So it seems that development of more sites

would be ruled out under all alternatives.

It is important that no future development or expansion of LTVAs occur. It is not consistent with BLM's function to compete with private businesses by providing free or low cost facilities for winter visitors. Expansion of privately-run winter visitor facilities in the Yuma and Quartzsite areas would indicate there are plenty of areas for visitors. Public lands should be kept for limited occupancy (such as camping), not near-permanent residence.

Closing 7% of the area to wood collection is also not enough. As desert environment does not produce much wood and some areas are already denuded, and other areas will then be moved into, we support no collecting of wood for any purpose.

ORV Use

26 We applaud BLM's proposal to limit the number of open areas and require driving on existing routes throughout most of the District. But since BLM nowhere defines "existing," we recommend that BLM designate which routes are open for vehicle use and that vehicles be prohibited from going off these routes, so as to protect the fragile desert environment. The open areas recommended by BLM in the Preferred Alternative are more than enough to sacrifice.

We suggest that the term ORV be eliminated and all vehicles on Federal land be driven on designated routes, except in emergency situations.

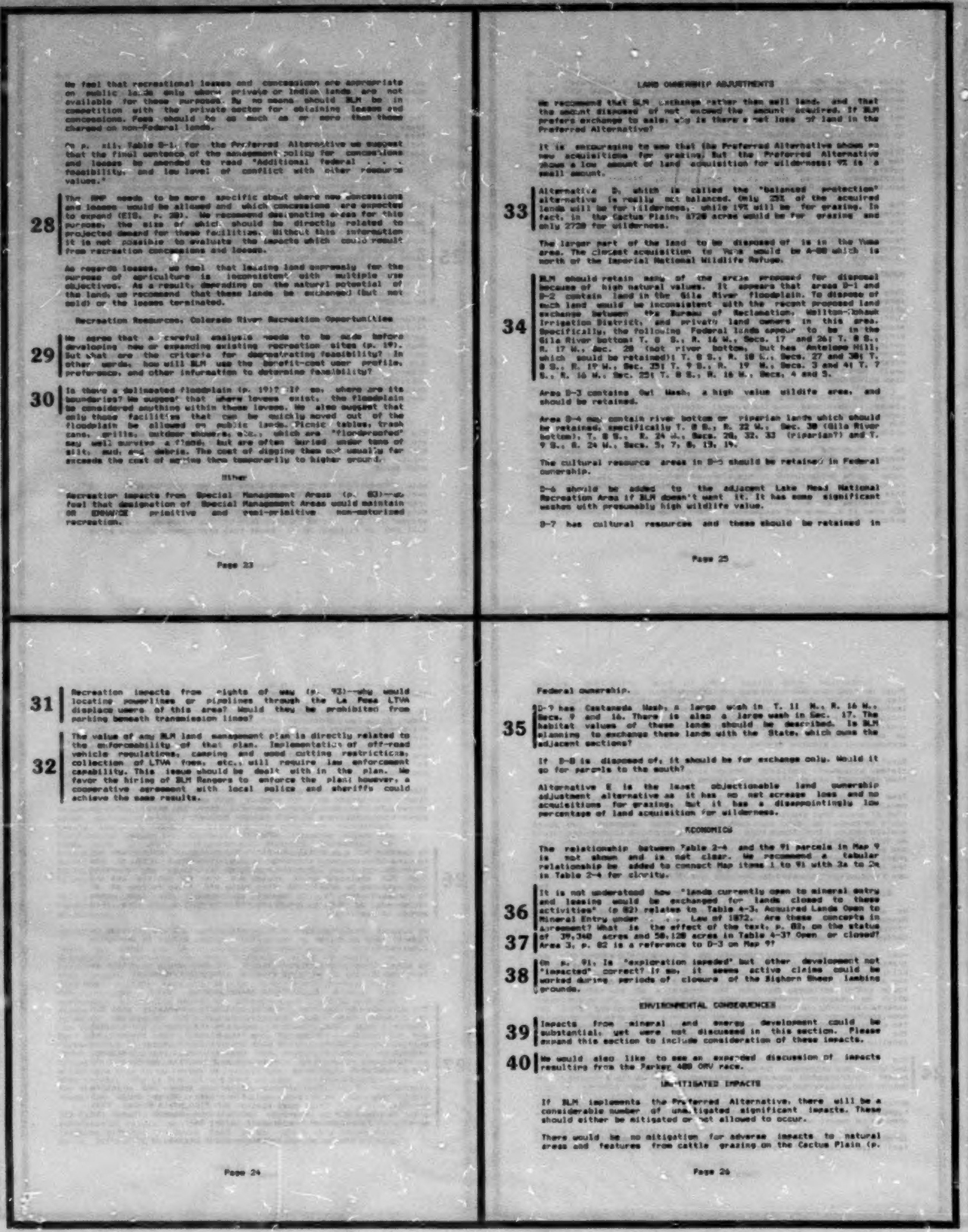
We also suggest distinct markings of the open areas so there is less possibility of vehicles straying into non-open areas.

Flood Plain Management

27 The multiple use concept presents conflicts especially when BLM is directed under BLM Floodplain Manual 7221 objectives as described on p. 241: "Restore, maintain and reserve the natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain." The concept of maintaining wildlife habitat with the principal object of public recreation seems difficult to realize. How can "restore, maintain and reserve" be consistent with public recreation in the floodplain?

Alternative B (p. 243) states "Riparian areas and wildlife habitat are not priorities. . .floodplain values would not benefit. . . ." This goes against BLM Floodplain Manual 7221 which requires BLM to restore, maintain and reserve natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain (p. 241).

Management of Concessions and Leases



We feel that recreational leases and concessions are appropriate on public lands only where private or Indian lands are not available for these purposes. By no means should BLM be in competition with the private sector for obtaining leases and concessions. Fees should be as much as or more than those charged on non-Federal lands.

On p. xii, Table S-1, for the Preferred Alternative we suggest that the final sentence of the management policy for concessions and leases be amended to read "Additional federal . . . feasibility, and low level of conflict with other resource values."

28 The RMP needs to be more specific about where new concessions and leases would be allowed and which concessions are expected to expand (EIS, p. 20). We recommend designating areas for this purpose, the size of which should be directly related to projected demand for these facilities. Without this information it is not possible to evaluate the impacts which could result from recreation concessions and leases.

As regards leases, we feel that leasing land expressly for the purpose of agriculture is inconsistent with multiple use objectives. As a result, depending on the natural potential of the land, we recommend that these lands be exchanged (but not sold) or the leases terminated.

Recreation Resources, Colorado River Recreation Opportunities

29 We agree that a careful analysis needs to be made before developing new or expanding existing recreation sites (p. 19). But what are the criteria for demonstrating feasibility? In other words, how will BLM use the benefit-cost user profile, preference, and other information to determine feasibility?

30 Is there a delineated floodplain (p. 19)? If so, where are its boundaries? We suggest that where levees exist, the floodplain be considered anything within those levees. We also suggest that only those facilities that can be quickly moved out of the floodplain be allowed on public lands. Picnic tables, trash cans, grills, outdoor showers, etc., which are "floodproofed" may well survive a flood, but are often buried under tons of silt, mud, and debris. The cost of digging them out usually far exceeds the cost of moving them temporarily to higher ground.

Other

Recreation impacts from Special Management Areas (p. 83)--we feel that designation of Special Management Areas would maintain OR ENHANCE primitive and semi-primitive non-motorized recreation.

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31 Recreation impacts from rights of way (p. 93)--why would locating powerlines or pipelines through the La Posa LTVA displace users of this area? Would they be prohibited from parking beneath transmission lines?

32 The value of any BLM land management plan is directly related to the enforceability of that plan. Implementation of off-road vehicle regulations, camping and wood cutting restrictions, collection of LTVA fees, etc., will require law enforcement capability. This issue should be dealt with in the plan. We favor the hiring of BLM Rangers to enforce the plan; however, a cooperative agreement with local police and sheriffs could achieve the same results.

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LAND OWNERSHIP ADJUSTMENTS

We recommend that BLM exchange rather than sell land, and that the amount disposed of not exceed the amount acquired. If BLM prefers exchange to sale, why is there a net loss of land in the Preferred Alternative?

It is encouraging to see that the Preferred Alternative shows no new acquisitions for grazing. But the Preferred Alternative shows a low amount of land acquisition for wilderness; 9% is a small amount.

33 Alternative D, which is called the "balanced protection" alternative is really not balanced. Only 25% of the acquired lands will be for wilderness, while 19% will be for grazing. In fact, in the Cactus Plain, 8720 acres would be for grazing and only 2720 for wilderness.

The larger part of the land to be disposed of is in the Yuma area. The closest acquisition to Yuma would be A-88 which is north of the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge.

34 BLM should retain many of the areas proposed for disposal because of high natural values. It appears that areas D-1 and D-2 contain land in the Gila River floodplain. To dispose of such land would be inconsistent with the recent proposed land exchange between the Bureau of Reclamation, Wellton-Mohawk Irrigation District, and private land owners in this area. Specifically, the following Federal lands appear to be in the Gila River bottom: T. 8 S., R. 16 W., Secs. 17 and 26; T. 8 S., R. 17 W., Sec. 28 (not river bottom, but has Antelope Hill, which would be retained); T. 8 S., R. 18 W., Secs. 27 and 30; T. 8 S., R. 19 W., Sec. 35; T. 9 S., R. 19 W., Secs. 3 and 4; T. 7 S., R. 16 W., Sec. 25; T. 8 S., R. 16 W., Secs. 4 and 5.

Area D-3 contains Owl Wash, a high value wildlife area, and should be retained.

Area D-4 may contain river bottom or riparian lands which should be retained, specifically T. 8 S., R. 22 W., Sec. 30 (Gila River bottom), T. 8 S., R. 24 W., Secs. 28, 32, 33 (riparian?) and T. 9 S., R. 24 W., Secs. 5, 7, 8, 13, 19.

The cultural resource areas in D-5 should be retained in Federal ownership.

D-6 should be added to the adjacent Lake Mead National Recreation Area if BLM doesn't want it. It has some significant washes with presumably high wildlife value.

D-7 has cultural resources and these should be retained in

Page 25

Federal ownership.

35 D-9 has Castaneda Wash, a large wash in T. 11 N., R. 16 W., Secs. 9 and 16. There is also a large wash in Sec. 17. The habitat values of these lands should be described. Is BLM planning to exchange these lands with the State, which owns the adjacent sections?

If D-8 is disposed of, it should be for exchange only. Would it go for parcels to the south?

Alternative E is the least objectionable land ownership adjustment alternative as it has no net acreage loss and no acquisitions for grazing. But it has a disappointingly low percentage of land acquisition for wilderness.

ECONOMICS

The relationship between Table 2-4 and the 91 parcels in Map 9 is not shown and is not clear. We recommend a tabular relationship be added to connect Map items 1 to 91 with 2a to 2m in Table 2-4 for clarity.

36 It is not understood how "lands currently open to mineral entry and leasing would be exchanged for lands closed to these activities" (p 82) relates to Table 4-3, Acquired Lands Open to Mineral Entry under . . . Law of 1872. Are these concepts in agreement? What is the effect of the text, p. 82, on the status

37 of 39,340 acres and 50,120 acres in Table 4-3? Open or closed? Area 3, p. 82 is a reference to D-3 on Map 9?

38 On p. 91, Is "exploration impeded" but other development not "impacted" correct? If so, it seems active claims could be worked during periods of closure of the Bighorn Sheep lambing grounds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

39 Impacts from mineral and energy development could be substantial, yet were not discussed in this section. Please expand this section to include consideration of these impacts.

40 We would also like to see an expanded discussion of impacts resulting from the Parker 400 ORV race.

UNMITIGATED IMPACTS

If BLM implements the Preferred Alternative, there will be a considerable number of unmitigated significant impacts. These should either be mitigated or not allowed to occur.

There would be no mitigation for adverse impacts to natural areas and features from cattle grazing on the Cactus Plain (p.

Page 26

98).

Vegetation would also face unmitigated adverse impacts form grazing (p. 94), meaning that the Muse allotment (which includes part of the Cactus Plain) vegetation trend would continue and the La Posa Plain stabilized sand dunes would be negatively impacted.

From LTVAs, there would be adverse impacts on 4 special status species (all are cacti), and no mitigation is proposed for the negative impacts to vegetation from the Parker 400 to Osborne Wash, a large wash dividing several HMAs.

41 Wildlife would suffer unmitigated impacts from grazing on the Nine-Mile allotment if improvement were put in. Competition with wildlife would occur (p. 98).

Land ownership adjustments would also cause unmitigated adverse impacts under the Preferred Alternative. Disposal of areas D-3 and D-9 would result in unmitigated negative wildlife impacts (p. 98). Since BLM doesn't know who would get the land or what they would do with it, a worst case scenario is appropriate.

Rights of way would negatively impact wildlife from the Parker-Blaisdell Utility Corridor, which would cut off a Bighorn Sheep and deer migration route. This is unmitigated.

Finally, BLM proposes no mitigation for the site-specific impacts of the Parker 400 on wildlife (p. 98).

MONITORING THE PLAN

P. 79, item 4 mentions a monitoring plan. This needs to be discussed in detail and made a part of the RMP.

A plan is of little value if it claims it will protect resources but no or inadequate monitoring occurs. The monitoring part of the plan should be evaluated at the same time as the rest of the plan. The Forest Service already does this in their planning process and BLM would do well to adopt the same procedure.

42 Such a monitoring element of the plan should establish threshhold values at which appropriate action would be taken, such as closure of access to protect resources that are being degraded, or reduction of cattle numbers if degradation continues or improvement does not occur.

However, we question the value of indicator or key species in monitoring the status of all wildlife species.

It is much better to present the monitoring plan in the Draft Plan and EIS than come out with it later when a protest or appeal would be necessary to attempt to change it, rather than

the comment process of which this letter is part.

Sincerely,

Cary W. Meister

Cary W. Meister
President

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WATER POWER
WELLTON-MOHAWK
IRRIGATION AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT
ROUTE 1, BOX 19 WELLTON, ARIZONA 85356
TEL: (602) 785-3351

April 18, 1986

Mr. J. Darwin Snell, District Manager
United States Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0089

Re: Draft Yuma District Resource Management Plan
and Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Snell:

We have reviewed the Draft Yuma District Resource Management Plan and offer the following comments for your consideration:

> Like the USBR, on the Colorado River, this District and Yuma County have the responsibility for flood control along the Lower Gila River. The one main ingredient common to all flood control is quarry rock necessary to maintain banks and levees. We also have a need to locate and preserve adequate permanent material sites. We hope that this can be accomplished under the preferred alternative should it be implemented.
>
> 1 The riparian areas identified under the preferred alternative, to be managed as priority wildlife areas, include 1,000 acres along the Gila River. While they are too small to identify on the map, we must assume they are within the high frequency flood plain. As you are aware, we have designed and received approval to construct a 10,000 cfs channel enhancement project for flood control and flood damage protection. We hope that flood control purposes is one of the compatible uses of a "priority wildlife area" as it is within the designated Fred J. Weiler Greenbelt. Not to allow the use of a flood plain for flood control would lead to extensive damage to adjacent land and structures.

In general, we find the Draft Resource Management Plan does a good job of addressing the issues and defining the impacts. We support the preferred alternative within its balance of values. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft Resource Management Plan.

Sincerely yours,

C. L. Gould
Manager

CLG:HMO:mlw

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CITY OF YUMA
SPECIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
1793 South First Avenue
Yuma, Arizona 85364

April 18, 1986

Planning Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
Post Office Box 5680
Yuma, Az 85364 - 0097

Dear Sir:

Please consider the following comment on the Yuma District Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement.

1 The City of Yuma requests that the RMP address the issue of determinacion of best mechanism to make all federally owned lands within the boundaries of the Yuma Crossing Park (YCP) available for parks and recreation purposes (Attachment). The bulk of the federal property is U. S. Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) withdrawn lands of the historic U. S. Army Quartermaster Depot (1860's) site. This area is currently occupied by the Yuma County Water Users Association (YCWUA), however under the conditions of the newly negotiated and shortly to be approved BOR/YCWUA contract, the YCWUA will be relocated in two years. This national historic landmark site is a critical element in the development of the Yuma Crossing Park. Any remaining parcels under federal ownership are important to provide for contiguous development of the park that will stretch for some 2 miles along the banks of the Colorado River at Yuma. Ideally, these federal properties would be transferred to the Arizona State Parks Board, who will develop that portion of the park.

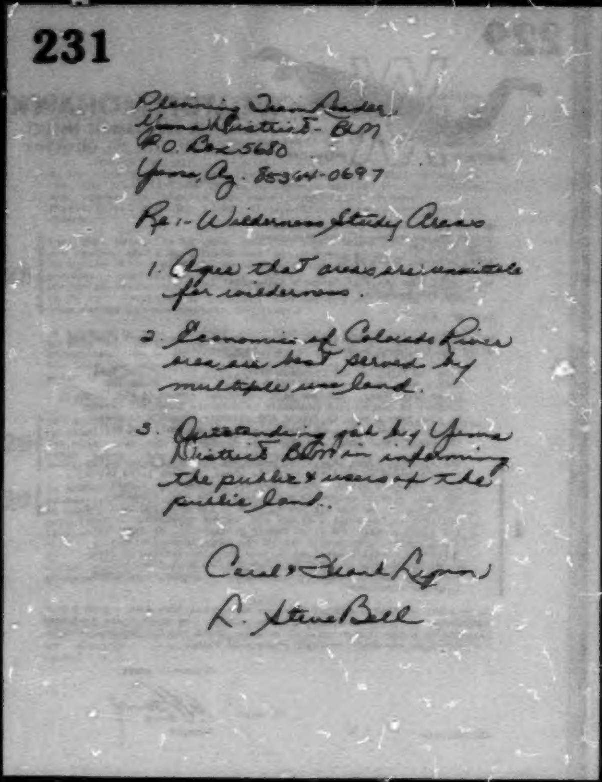
Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Gwen Robinson

Gwen Robinson
Yuma Crossing Park Coordinator

Attachment



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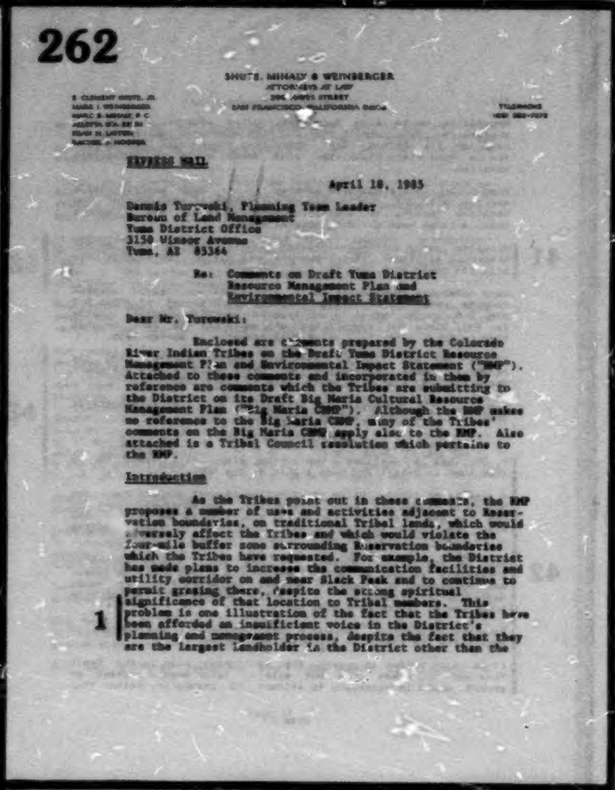
Planning Team Leader
Yuma District - BLM
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, Az. 85364-0697

Re: - Wilderness Study Areas

1. Agree that areas are unsuitable for wilderness.
2. Economics of Colorado River area are best served by multiple use land.
3. Outstanding job by Yuma District BLM in informing the public & users of the public land.

Carol & Frank Lyons
L. Steve Bell



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E. CLEMENT SHUTE, JR.
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TELEPHONE

EXPRESS MAIL

April 18, 1985

Dennis Turowski, Planning Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
3150 Winsor Avenue
Yuma, AZ 85364

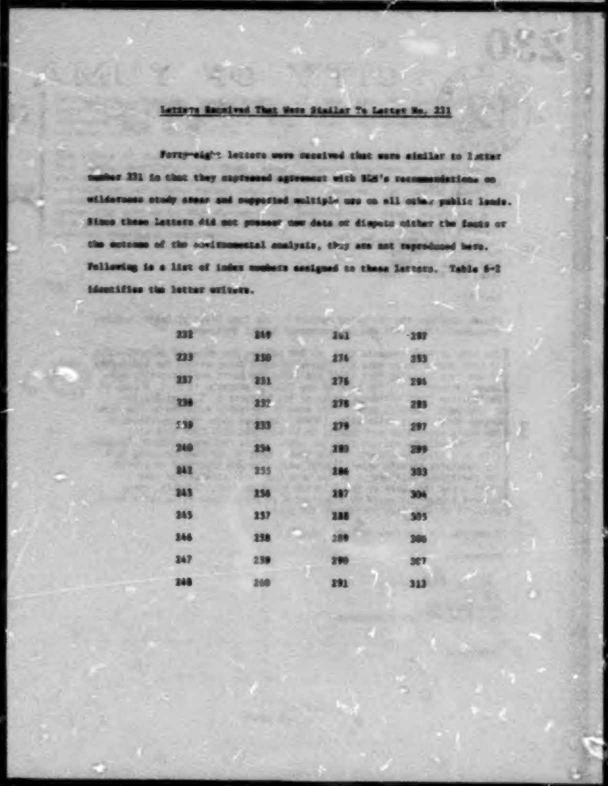
Re: Comments on Draft Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

Dear Mr. Turowski:

Enclosed are comments prepared by the Colorado River Indian Tribes on the Draft Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement ("RMP"). Attached to these comments and incorporated in them by reference are comments which the Tribes are submitting to the District on its Draft Big Maria Cultural Resource Management Plan ("Big Maria CRMP"). Although the RMP makes no reference to the Big Maria CRMP, many of the Tribes' comments on the Big Maria CRMP apply also to the RMP. Also attached is a Tribal Council resolution which pertains to the RMP.

Introduction

As the Tribes point out in these comments, the RMP proposes a number of uses and activities adjacent to Reservation boundaries, on traditional Tribal lands, which would adversely affect the Tribes and which would violate the four-mile buffer zone surrounding Reservation boundaries which the Tribes have requested. For example, the District has made plans to increase the communication facilities and utility corridor on and near Black Peak and to continue to permit grazing there, despite the strong spiritual significance of that location to Tribal members. This
1 problem is one illustration of the fact that the Tribes have been afforded an insufficient voice in the District's planning and management process, despite the fact that they are the largest landholder in the District other than the



Letters Received That Were Similar To Letter No. 231

Forty-eight letters were received that were similar to letter number 231 in that they expressed agreement with BLM's recommendations on wilderness study areas and supported multiple use on all other public lands. Since these letters did not present new data or dispute either the facts or the outcome of the environmental analysis, they are not reproduced here. Following is a list of index numbers assigned to these letters. Table 6-2 identifies the letter writers.

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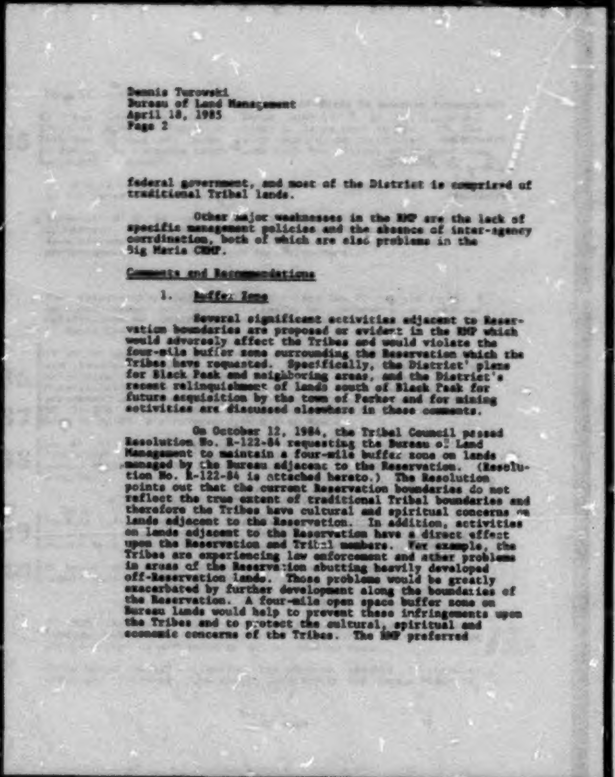

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federal government, and most of the District is comprised of traditional Tribal lands.

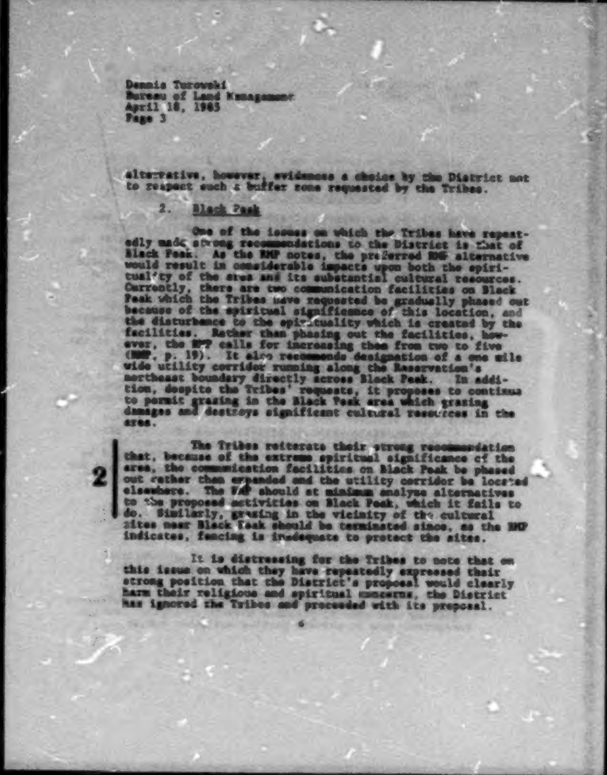
Other major weaknesses in the RMP are the lack of specific management policies and the absence of inter-agency coordination, both of which are also problems in the Big Maria CRMP.

Comments and Recommendations

1. Buffer Zone

Several significant activities adjacent to Reservation boundaries are proposed or evident in the RMP which would adversely affect the Tribes and would violate the four-mile buffer zone surrounding the Reservation which the Tribes have requested. Specifically, the District' plans for Black Peak and neighboring areas, and the District's recent relinquishment of lands south of Black Peak for future acquisition by the town of Parker and for mining activities are discussed elsewhere in these comments.

On October 12, 1984, the Tribal Council passed Resolution No. R-122-84 requesting the Bureau of Land Management to maintain a four-mile buffer zone on lands managed by the Bureau adjacent to the Reservation. (Resolution No. R-122-84 is attached hereto.) The Resolution points out that the current Reservation boundaries do not reflect the true extent of traditional Tribal boundaries and therefore the Tribes have cultural and spiritual concerns on lands adjacent to the Reservation. In addition, activities on lands adjacent to the Reservation have a direct effect upon the Reservation and Tribal members. For example, the Tribes are experiencing law enforcement and other problems in areas of the Reservation abutting heavily developed off-Reservation lands. These problems would be greatly exacerbated by further development along the boundaries of the Reservation. A four-mile open space buffer zone on Bureau lands would help to prevent these infringements upon the Tribes and to protect the cultural, spiritual and economic concerns of the Tribes. The RMP preferred



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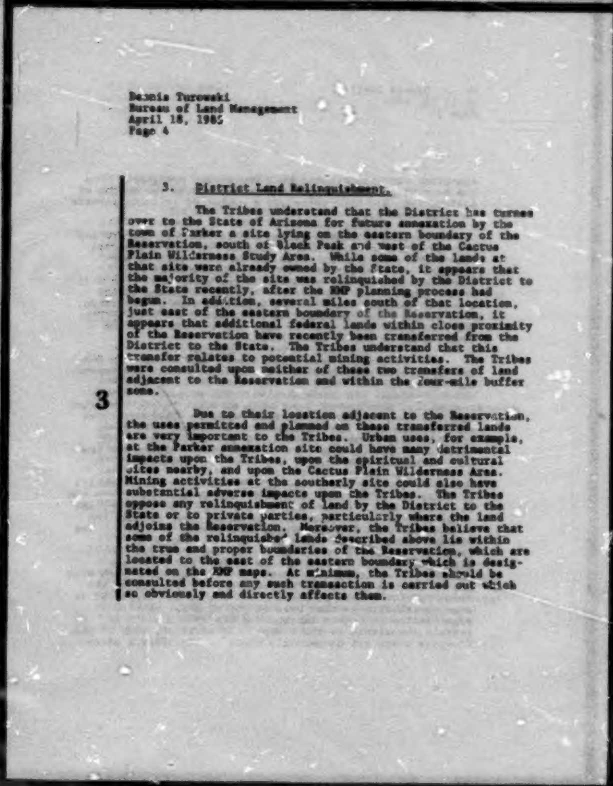
alternative, however, evidences a choice by the District not to respect such a buffer zone requested by the Tribes.

2. Black Peak

One of the issues on which the Tribes have repeatedly made strong recommendations to the District is that of Black Peak. As the RMP notes, the preferred RMP alternative would result in considerable impacts upon both the spirituality of the area and its substantial cultural resources. Currently, there are two communication facilities on Black Peak which the Tribes have requested be gradually phased out because of the spiritual significance of this location, and the disturbance to the spirituality which is created by the facilities. Rather than phasing out the facilities, however, the RMP calls for increasing them from two to five (RMP, p. 19). It also recommends designation of a one mile wide utility corridor running along the Reservation's northeast boundary directly across Black Peak. In addition, despite the Tribes' requests, it proposes to continue to permit grazing in the Black Peak area which grazing damages and destroys significant cultural resources in the area.

2 The Tribes reiterate their strong recommendation that, because of the extreme spiritual significance of the area, the communication facilities on Black Peak be phased out rather than expanded and the utility corridor be located elsewhere. The RMP should at minimum analyze alternatives to the proposed activities on Black Peak, which it fails to do. Similarly, grazing in the vicinity of the cultural sites near Black Peak should be terminated since, as the RMP indicates, fencing is inadequate to protect the sites.

It is distressing for the Tribes to note that on this issue on which they have repeatedly expressed their strong position that the District's proposal would clearly harm their religious and spiritual concerns, the District has ignored the Tribes and proceeded with its proposal.



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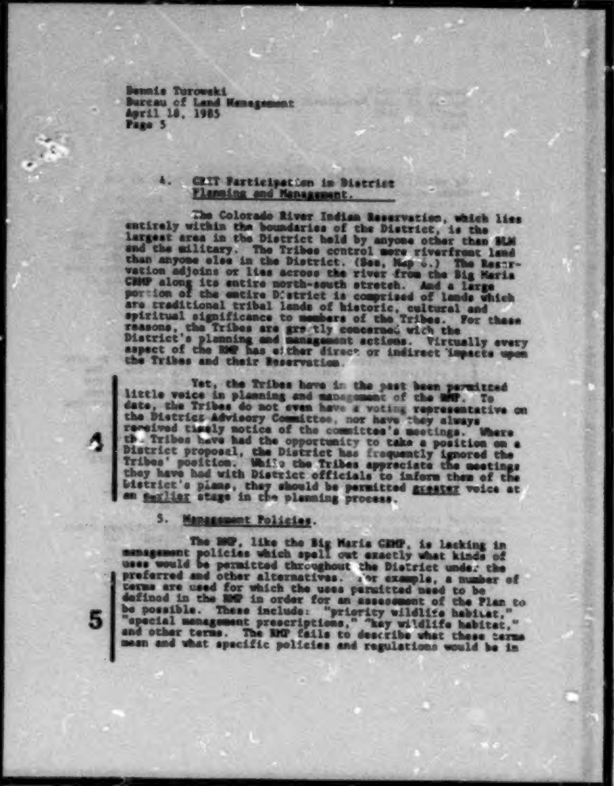
3. District Land Relinquishment.

3 The Tribes understand that the District has turned over to the State of Arizona for future annexation by the town of Parker a site lying on the eastern boundary of the Reservation, south of Black Peak and west of the Cactus Plain Wilderness Study Area. While some of the lands at that site were already owned by the State, it appears that the majority of the site was relinquished by the District to the State recently, after the RMP planning process had begun. In addition, several miles south of that location, just east of the eastern boundary of the Reservation, it appears that additional federal lands within close proximity of the Reservation have recently been transferred from the District to the State. The Tribes understand that this transfer relates to potential mining activities. The Tribes were consulted upon neither of these two transfers of land adjacent to the Reservation and within the four-mile buffer zone.

Due to their location adjacent to the Reservation, the uses permitted and planned on these transferred lands are very important to the Tribes. Urban uses, for example, at the Parker annexation site could have many detrimental impacts upon the Tribes, upon the spiritual and cultural sites nearby, and upon the Cactus Plain Wilderness Area. Mining activities at the southerly site could also have substantial adverse impacts upon the Tribes. The Tribes oppose any relinquishment of land by the District to the State or to private parties, particularly where the land adjoins the Reservation. Moreover, the Tribes believe that some of the relinquished lands described above lie within the true and proper boundaries of the Reservation, which are located to the east of the eastern boundary which is designated on the RMP maps. At minimum, the Tribes should be consulted before any such transaction is carried out which so obviously and directly affects them.



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4. CRIT Participation in District Planning and Management.

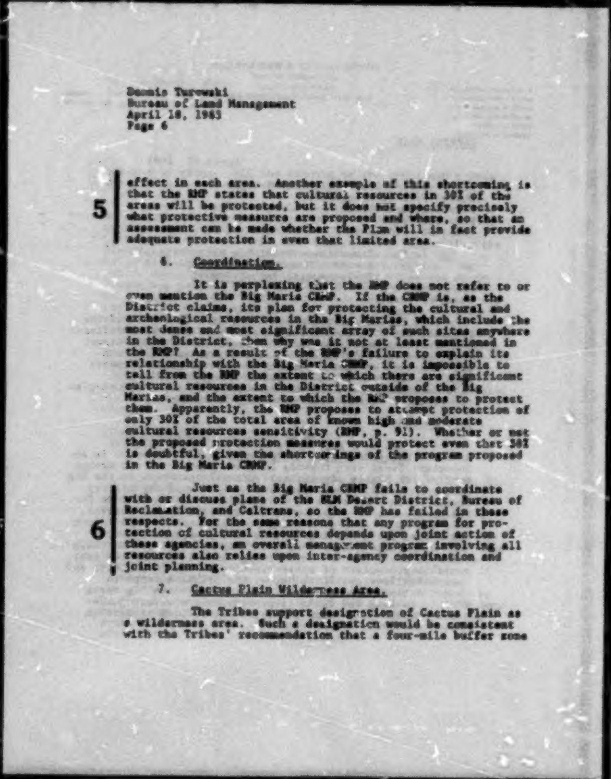
The Colorado River Indian Reservation, which lies entirely within the boundaries of the District, is the largest area in the District held by anyone other than BLM and the military. The Tribes control more riverfront land than anyone else in the District. (See, Map 6.) The Reservation adjoins or lies across the river from the Big Maria CRMP along its entire north-south stretch. And a large portion of the entire District is comprised of lands which are traditional tribal lands of historic, cultural and spiritual significance to members of the Tribes. For these reasons, the Tribes are greatly concerned with the District's planning and management actions. Virtually every aspect of the RMP has either direct or indirect impacts upon the Tribes and their Reservation.

4 Yet, the Tribes have in the past been permitted little voice in planning and management of the RMP. To date, the Tribes do not even have a voting representative on the District Advisory Committee, nor have they always received timely notice of the committee's meetings. Where the Tribes have had the opportunity to take a position on a District proposal, the District has frequently ignored the Tribes' position. While the Tribes appreciate the meetings they have had with District officials to inform them of the District's plans, they should be permitted greater voice at an earlier stage in the planning process.

5. Management Policies.

The RMP, like the Big Maria CRMP, is lacking in management policies which spell out exactly what kinds of uses would be permitted throughout the District under the

5 preferred and other alternatives. For example, a number of terms are used for which the uses permitted need to be defined in the RMP in order for an assessment of the Plan to be possible. These include: "priority wildlife habitat," "special management prescriptions," "key wildlife habitat," and other terms. The RMP fails to describe what these terms mean and what specific policies and regulations would be in



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5 effect in each area. Another example of this shortcoming is that the RMP states that cultural resources in 30% of the areas will be protected, but it does not specify precisely what protective measures are proposed and where, so that an assessment can be made whether the Plan will in fact provide adequate protection in even that limited area.

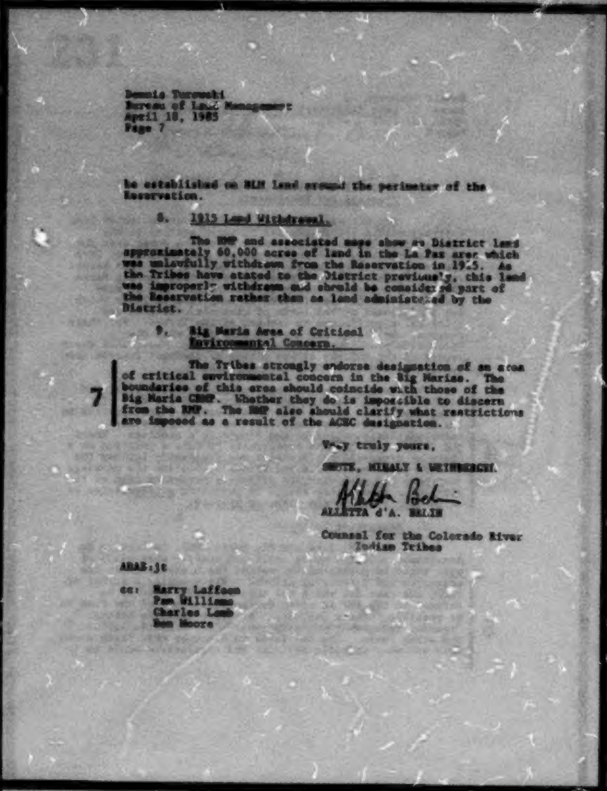
6. Coordination.

It is perplexing that the RMP does not refer to or even mention the Big Maria CRMP. If the CRMP is, as the District claims, its plan for protecting the cultural and archeological resources in the Big Marias, which include the most dense and most significant array of such sites anywhere in the District, then why was it not at least mentioned in the RMP? As a result of the RMP's failure to explain its relationship with the Big Maria CRMP, it is impossible to tell from the RMP the extent to which there are significant cultural resources in the District outside of the Big Marias, and the extent to which the RMP proposes to protect them. Apparently, the RMP proposes to attempt protection of only 30% of the total area of known high and moderate cultural resources sensitivity (RMP, p. 91). Whether or not the proposed protection measures would protect even that 30% is doubtful, given the shortcomings of the program proposed in the Big Maria CRMP.

6 Just as the Big Maria CRMP fails to coordinate with or discuss plans of the BLM Desert District, Bureau of Reclamation, and Caltrans, so the RMP has failed in these respects. For the same reasons that any program for protection of cultural resources depends upon joint action of these agencies, an overall management program involving all resources also relies upon inter-agency coordination and joint planning.

7. Cactus Plain Wilderness Area.

The Tribes support designation of Cactus Plain as a wilderness area. Such a designation would be consistent with the Tribes' recommendation that a four-mile buffer zone



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be established on BLM land around the perimeter of the Reservation.

8. 1915 Land Withdrawal.

The RMP and associated maps show as District land approximately 60,000 acres of land in the La Paz area which was unlawfully withdrawn from the Reservation in 1915. As the Tribes have stated to the District previously, this land was improperly withdrawn and should be considered part of the Reservation rather than as land administered by the District.

9. Big Maria Area of Critical Environmental Concern.

7 The Tribes strongly endorse designation of an area of critical environmental concern in the Big Marias. The boundaries of this area should coincide with those of the Big Maria CRMP. Whether they do is impossible to discern from the RMP. The RMP also should clarify what restrictions are imposed as a result of the ACEC designation.

Very truly yours,

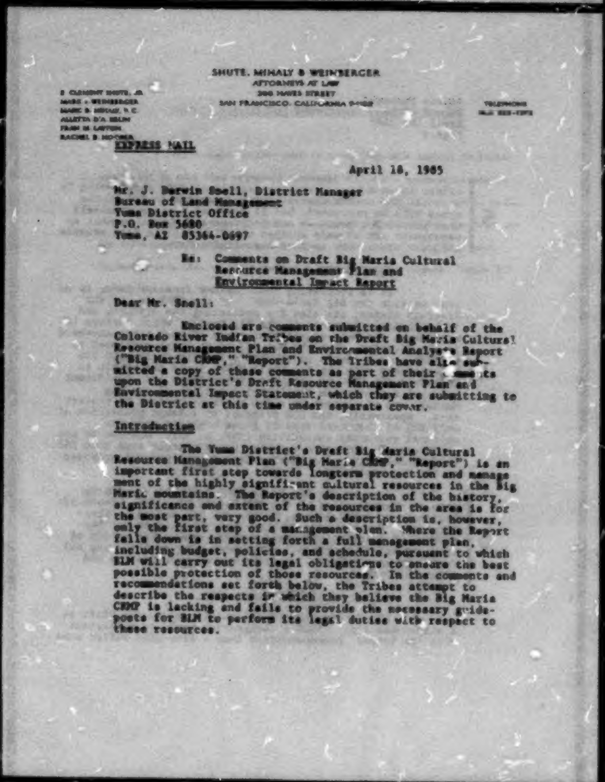
SHUTE, MIHALY & WEINBERGER

ALLETTA d'A. BELIN

Counsel for the Colorado River
Indian Tribes

ABAB:jt

cc: Harry Laffoon
Pam Williams
Charles Lamb
Ben Moore



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EXPRESS MAIL

April 18, 1985

Mr. J. Darwin Snell, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, AZ 85364-0697

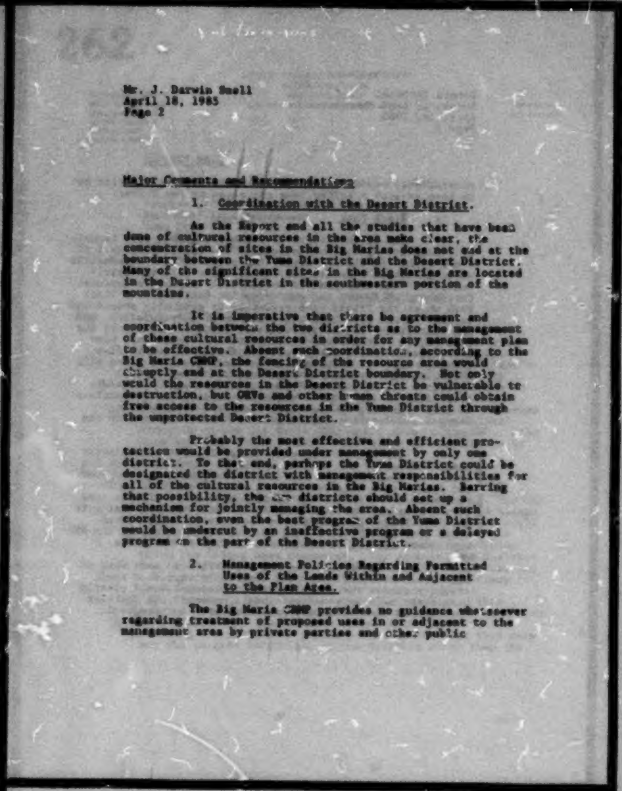
Re: Comments on Draft Big Maria Cultural
Resource Management Plan and
Environmental Impact Report

Dear Mr. Snell:

Enclosed are comments submitted on behalf of the Colorado River Indian Tribes on the Draft Big Maria Cultural Resource Management Plan and Environmental Analysis Report ("Big Maria CRMP," "Report"). The Tribes have also submitted a copy of these comments as part of their comments upon the District's Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, which they are submitting to the District at this time under separate cover.

Introduction

The Yuma District's Draft Big Maria Cultural Resource Management Plan ("Big Maria CRMP," "Report") is an important first step towards longterm protection and management of the highly significant cultural resources in the Big Maria mountains. The Report's description of the history, significance and extent of the resources in the area is for the most part, very good. Such a description is, however, only the first step of a management plan. Where the Report falls down is in setting forth a full management plan, including budget, policies, and schedule, pursuant to which BLM will carry out its legal obligations to ensure the best possible protection of those resources. In the comments and recommendations set forth below, the Tribes attempt to describe the respects in which they believe the Big Maria CRMP is lacking and fails to provide the necessary guideposts for BLM to perform its legal duties with respect to these resources.



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Major Comments and Recommendations

1. Coordination with the Desert District.

As the Report and all the studies that have been done of cultural resources in the area make clear, the concentration of sites in the Big Marias does not end at the boundary between the Yuma District and the Desert District. Many of the significant sites in the Big Marias are located in the Desert District in the southwestern portion of the mountains.

It is imperative that there be agreement and coordination between the two districts as to the management of these cultural resources in order for any management plan to be effective. Absent such coordination, according to the Big Maria CRMP, the fencing of the resource area would abruptly end at the Desert District boundary. Not only would the resources in the Desert District be vulnerable to destruction, but ORVs and other human threats could obtain free access to the resources in the Yuma District through the unprotected Desert District.

Probably the most effective and efficient protection would be provided under management by only one district. To that end, perhaps the Yuma District could be designated the district with management responsibilities for all of the cultural resources in the Big Marias. Barring that possibility, the two districts should set up a mechanism for jointly managing the area. Absent such coordination, even the best program of the Yuma District would be undercut by an ineffective program or a delayed program on the part of the Desert District.

2. Management Policies Regarding Permitted Uses of the Lands Within and Adjacent to the Plan Area.

The Big Maria CRMP provides no guidance whatsoever regarding treatment of proposed uses in or adjacent to the management area by private parties and other public

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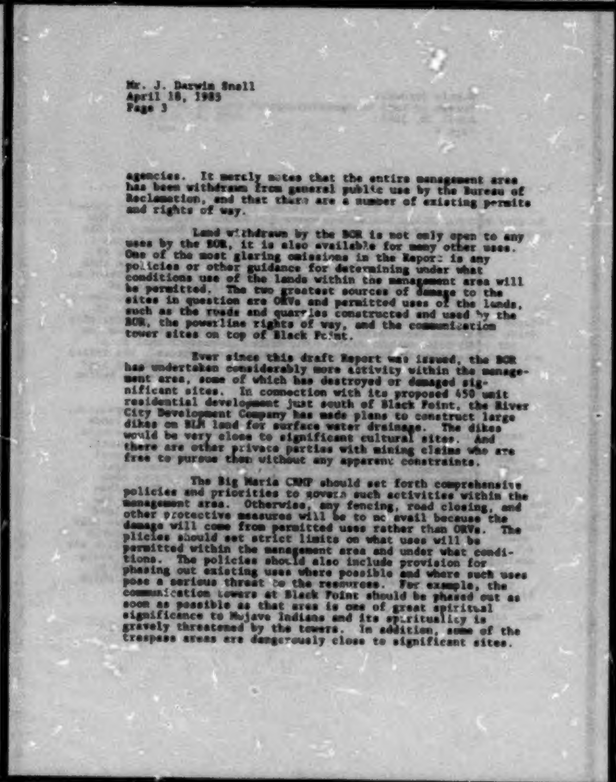

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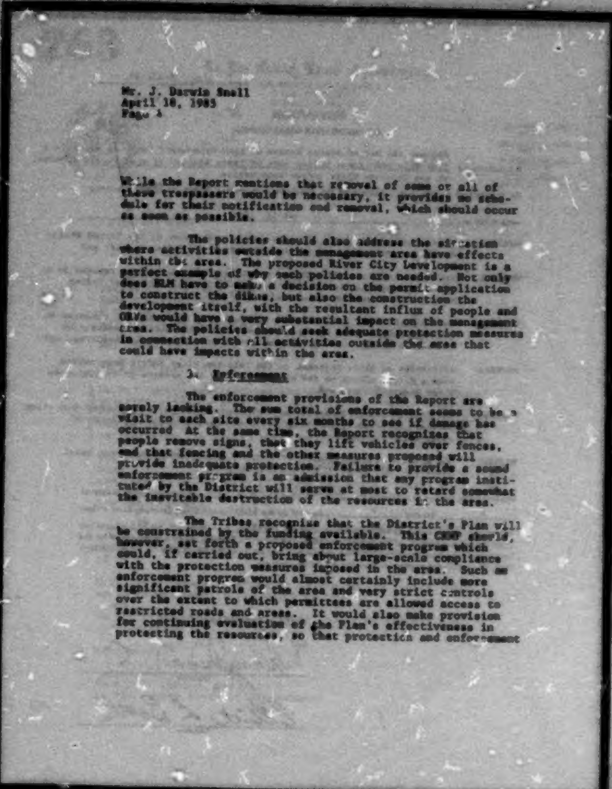
agencies. It merely notes that the entire management area has been withdrawn from general public use by the Bureau of Reclamation, and that there are a number of existing permits and rights of way.

Land withdrawn by the BOR is not only open to any uses by the BOR, it is also available for many other uses. One of the most glaring omissions in the Report is any policies or other guidance for determining under what conditions use of the lands within the management area will be permitted. The two greatest sources of damage to the sites in question are ORVs and permitted uses of the lands, such as the roads and quarries constructed and used by the BOR, the powerline rights of way, and the communication tower sites on top of Black Point.

Ever since this draft Report was issued, the BOR has undertaken considerably more activity within the management area, some of which has destroyed or damaged significant sites. In connection with its proposed 450 unit residential development just south of Black Point, the River City Development Company has made plans to construct large dikes on BLM land for surface water drainage. The dikes would be very close to significant cultural sites. And there are other private parties with mining claims who are free to pursue them without any apparent constraints.

The Big Maria CRMP should set forth comprehensive policies and priorities to govern such activities within the management area. Otherwise, any fencing, road closing, and other protective measures will be to no avail because the damage will come from permitted uses rather than ORVs. The plicies should set strict limits on what uses will be permitted within the management area and under what conditions. The policies should also include provision for phasing out existing uses where possible and where such uses pose a serious threat to the resources. For example, the communication towers at Black Point should be phased out as soon as possible as that area is one of great spiritual significance to Mojave Indians and its spirituality is gravely threatened by the towers. In addition, some of the trespass areas are dangerously close to significant sites.



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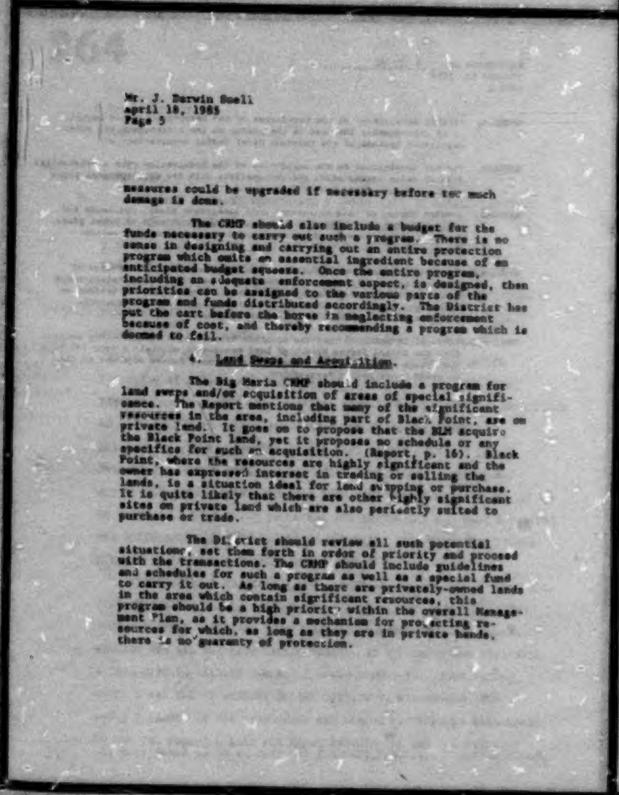
While the Report mentions that removal of some or all of these trespassers would be necessary, it provides no schedule for their notification and removal, which should occur as soon as possible.

The policies should also address the situation where activities outside the management area have effects within the area. The proposed River City Development is a perfect example of why such policies are needed. Not only does BLM have to make a decision on the permit application to construct the dikes, but also the construction the development itself, with the resultant influx of people and ORVs would have a very substantial impact on the management area. The policies should seek adequate protection measures in connection with all activities outside the area that could have impacts within the area.

3. Enforcement

The enforcement provisions of the Report are sorely lacking. The sum total of enforcement seems to be a visit to each site every six months to see if damage has occurred At the same time, the Report recognizes that people remove signs, that they lift vehicles over fences, and that fencing and the other measures proposed will provide inadequate protection. Failure to provide a sound enforcement program is an admission that any program instituted by the District will serve at most to retard somewhat the inevitable destruction of the resources in the area.

The Tribes recognize that the District's Plan will be constrained by the funding available. This CRMP should, however, set forth a proposed enforcement program which could, if carried out, bring about large-scale compliance with the protection measures imposed in the area. Such an enforcement program would almost certainly include more significant patrols of the area and very strict controls over the extent to which permittees are allowed access to restricted roads and areas. It would also make provision for continuing evaluation of the Plan's effectiveness in protecting the resources, so that protection and enforcement



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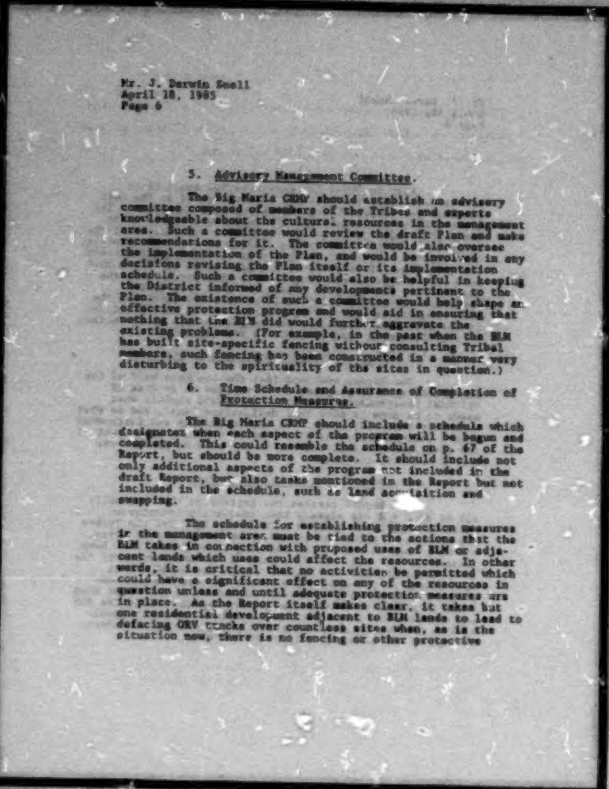
measures could be upgraded if necessary before too much damage is done.

The CRMP should also include a budget for the funds necessary to carry out such a program. There is no sense in designing and carrying out an entire protection program which omits an essential ingredient because of an anticipated budget squeeze. Once the entire program, including an adequate enforcement aspect, is designed, then priorities can be assigned to the various parts of the program and funds distributed accordingly. The District has put the cart before the horse in neglecting enforcement because of cost, and thereby recommending a program which is doomed to fail.

4. Land Swaps and Acquisition.

The Big Maria CRMP should include a program for land swaps and/or acquisition of areas of special significance. The Report mentions that many of the significant resources in the area, including part of Black Point, are on private land. It goes on to propose that the BLM acquire the Black Point land, yet it proposes no schedule or any specifics for such an acquisition. (Report, p. 16). Black Point, where the resources are highly significant and the owner has expressed interest in trading or selling the lands, is a situation ideal for land swapping or purchase. It is quite likely that there are other highly significant sites on private land which are also perfectly suited to purchase or trade.

The District should review all such potential situations, set them forth in order of priority and proceed with the transactions. The CRMP should include guidelines and schedules for such a program as well as a special fund to carry it out. As long as there are privately-owned lands in the area which contain significant resources, this program should be a high priority within the overall Management Plan, as it provides a mechanism for protecting resources for which, as long as they are in private hands, there is no guaranty of protection.



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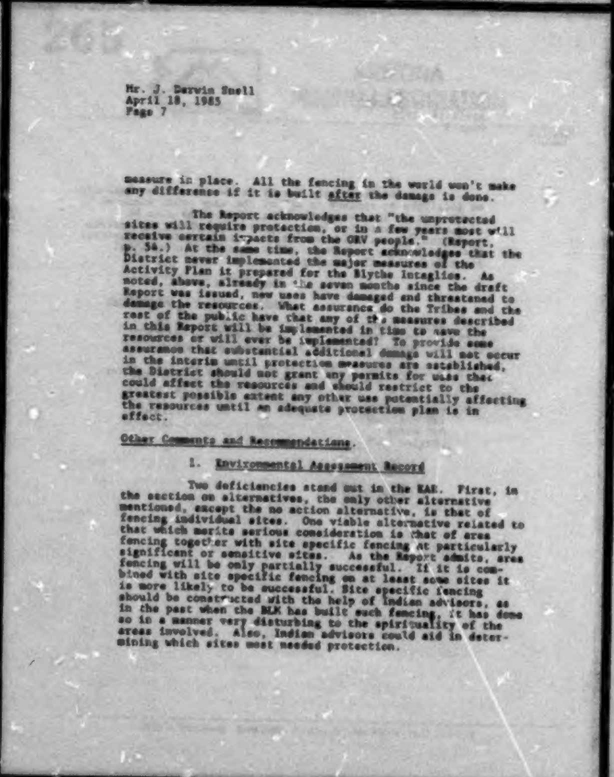
5. Advisory Management Committee.

The Big Maria CRMP should establish an advisory committee composed of members of the Tribes and experts knowledgeable about the cultural resources in the management area. Such a committee would review the draft Plan and make recommendations for it. The committee would also oversee the implementation of the Plan, and would be involved in any decisions revising the Plan itself or its implementation schedule. Such a committee would also be helpful in keeping the District informed of any developments pertinent to the Plan. The existence of such a committee would help shape an effective protection program and would aid in ensuring that nothing that the BLM did would further aggravate the existing problems. (For example, in the past when the BLM has built site-specific fencing without consulting Tribal members, such fencing has been constructed in a manner very disturbing to the spirituality of the sites in question.)

6. Time Schedule and Assurance of Completion of Protection Measures.

The Big Maria CRMP should include a schedule which designates when each aspect of the program will be begun and completed. This could resemble the schedule on p. 67 of the Report, but should be more complete. It should include not only additional aspects of the program not included in the draft Report, but also tasks mentioned in the Report but not included in the schedule, such as land acquisition and swapping.

The schedule for establishing protection measures in the management area must be tied to the actions that the BLM takes in connection with proposed uses of BLM or adjacent lands which uses could affect the resources. In other words, it is critical that no activities be permitted which could have a significant effect on any of the resources in question unless and until adequate protection measures are in place. As the Report itself makes clear, it takes but one residential development adjacent to BLM lands to lead to defacing ORV tracks over countless sites when, as is the situation now, there is no fencing or other protective



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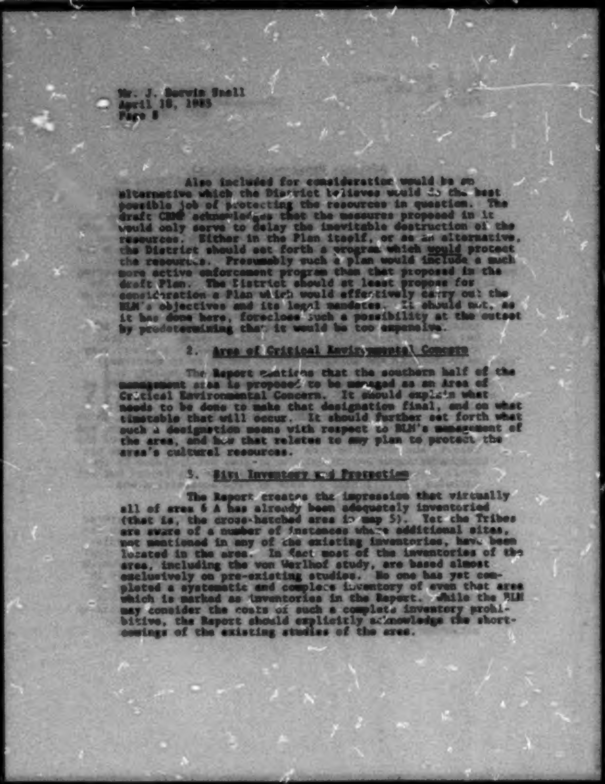
measure in place. All the fencing in the world won't make any difference if it is built after the damage is done.

The Report acknowledges that "the unprotected sites will require protection, or in a few years most will receive certain impacts from the ORV people." (Report, p. 54.) At the same time, the Report acknowledges that the District never implemented the major measures of the Activity Plan it prepared for the Blythe Intaglios. As noted, above, already in the seven months since the draft Report was issued, new uses have damaged and threatened to damage the resources. What assurance do the Tribes and the rest of the public have that any of the measures described in this Report will be implemented in time to save the resources or will ever be implemented? To provide some assurance that substantial additional damage will not occur in the interim until protection measures are established, the District should not grant any permits for uses that could affect the resources and should restrict to the greatest possible extent any other use potentially affecting the resources until an adequate protection plan is in effect.

Other Comments and Recommendations.

1. Environmental Assessment Record

Two deficiencies stand out in the EAR. First, in the section on alternatives, the only other alternative mentioned, except the no action alternative, is that of fencing individual sites. One viable alternative related to that which merits serious consideration is that of area fencing together with site specific fencing at particularly significant or sensitive sites. As the Report admits, area fencing will be only partially successful. If it is combined with site specific fencing on at least some sites it is more likely to be successful. Site specific fencing should be constructed with the help of Indian advisors, as in the past when the BLM has built such fencing, it has done so in a manner very disturbing to the spirituality of the areas involved. Also, Indian advisors could aid in determining which sites most needed protection.



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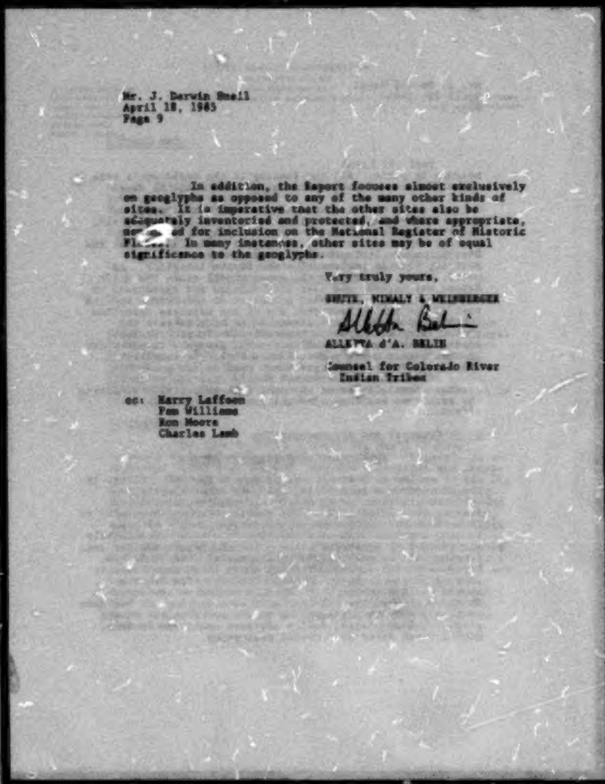
Also included for consideration would be an alternative which the District believes would do the best possible job of protecting the resources in question. The draft CRMP acknowledges that the measures proposed in it would only serve to delay the inevitable destruction of the resources. Either in the Plan itself, or as an alternative, the District should set forth a program which would protect the resources. Presumably such a plan would include a much more active enforcement program than that proposed in the draft Plan. The District should at least propose for consideration a Plan which would effectively carry out the BLM's objectives and its legal mandates. It should not, as it has done here, foreclose such a possibility at the outset by predetermining that it would be too expensive.

2. Area of Critical Environmental Concern

The Report mentions that the southern half of the management area is proposed to be managed as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. It should explain what needs to be done to make that designation final, and on what timetable that will occur. It should further set forth what such a designation means with respect to BLM's management of the area, and how that relates to any plan to protect the area's cultural resources.

3. Site Inventory and Protection

The Report creates the impression that virtually all of area 6 A has already been adequately inventoried (that is, the cross-hatched area in map 5). Yet the Tribes are aware of a number of instances where additional sites, not mentioned in any of the existing inventories, have been located in the area. In fact most of the inventories of the area, including the von Werlhof study, are based almost exclusively on pre-existing studies. No one has yet completed a systematic and complete inventory of even that area which is marked as inventories in the Report. While the BLM may consider the costs of such a complete inventory prohibitive, the Report should explicitly acknowledge the shortcomings of the existing studies of the area.



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April 18, 1985
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In addition, the Report focuses almost exclusively on geoglyphs as opposed to any of the many other kinds of sites. It is imperative that the other sites also be adequately inventoried and protected, and where appropriate, nominated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. In many instances, other sites may be of equal significance to the geoglyphs.

Very truly yours,

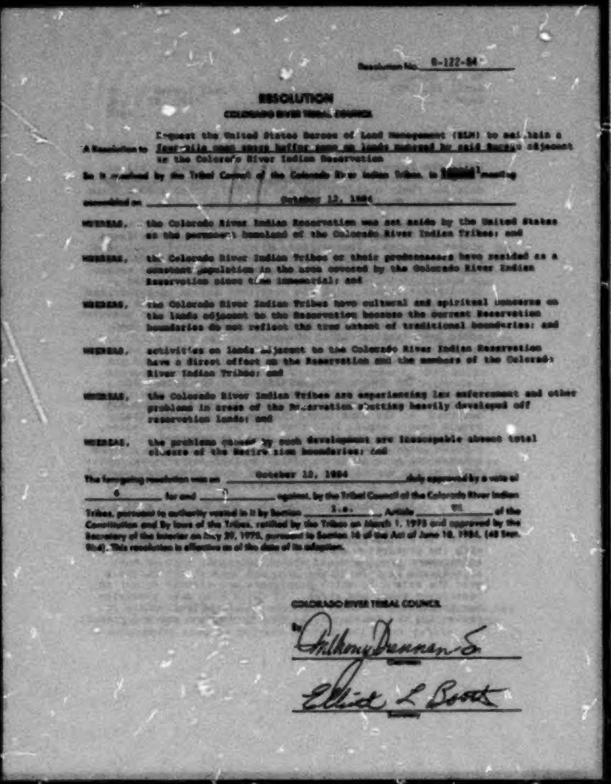
SHUTE, MIHALY & WEINBERGER

Alletta Belin

ALLETTA d'A. BELIN

Counsel for Colorado River
Indian Tribes

cc: Harry Laffoon
Pam Williams
Ron Moore
Charles Lamb



Resolution No. R-122-84

RESOLUTION
COLORADO RIVER TRIBAL COUNCIL

A Resolution to: Request the United States Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to maintain a four-mile open space buffer zone on lands managed by said Bureau adjacent to the Colorado River Indian Reservation

Be it resolved by the Tribal Council of the Colorado River Indian Tribes, in [illegible] meeting assembled on October 12, 1984

WHEREAS, the Colorado River Indian Reservation was set aside by the United States as the permanent homeland of the Colorado River Indian Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado River Indian Tribes or their predecessors have resided as a constant population in the area covered by the Colorado River Indian Reservation since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado River Indian Tribes have cultural and spiritual concerns on the lands adjacent to the Reservation because the current Reservation boundaries do not reflect the true extent of traditional boundaries; and

WHEREAS, activities on lands adjacent to the Colorado River Indian Reservation have a direct effect on the Reservation and the members of the Colorado River Indian Tribes; and

WHEREAS, the Colorado River Indian Tribes are experiencing law enforcement and other problems in areas of the Reservation abutting heavily developed off reservation lands; and

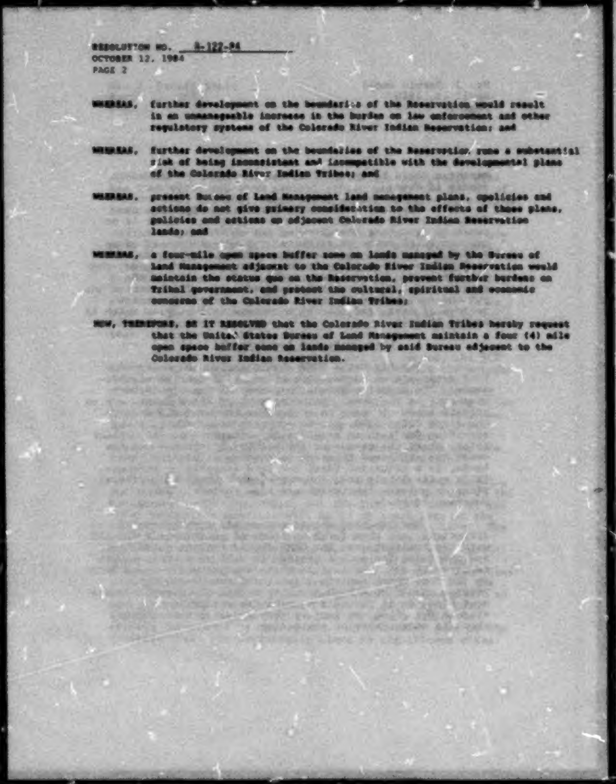
WHEREAS, the problems caused by such development are inescapable absent total closure of the Reservation boundaries; and

The foregoing resolution was on October 12, 1984 duly approved by a vote of 6 for and 0 against, by the Tribal Council of the Colorado River Indian Tribes, pursuant to authority vested in it by Section 1.a. Article VI of the Constitution and By-laws of the Tribes, ratified by the Tribes on March 1, 1975 and approved by the Secretary of the Interior on May 29, 1975, pursuant to Section 16 of the Act of June 18, 1934. (48 Stat. 984). This resolution is effective as of the date of its adoption.

COLORADO RIVER TRIBAL COUNCIL

By Anthony Drennan Sr.
Chairman

Elliott L Booth
Secretary



RESOLUTION NO. R-122-84
OCTOBER 12, 1984
PAGE 2

WHEREAS, further development on the boundaries of the Reservation would result in an unmanageable increase in the burden on law enforcement and other regulatory systems of the Colorado River Indian Reservation; and

WHEREAS, further development on the boundaries of the Reservation runs a substantial risk of being inconsistent and incompatible with the developmental plans of the Colorado River Indian Tribes; and

WHEREAS, present Bureau of Land Management land management plans, policies and actions do not give primary consideration to the effects of these plans, policies and actions on adjacent Colorado River Indian Reservation lands; and

WHEREAS, a four-mile open space buffer zone on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management adjacent to the Colorado River Indian Reservation would maintain the status quo on the Reservation, prevent further burdens on Tribal government, and protect the cultural, spiritual and economic concerns of the Colorado River Indian Tribes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Colorado River Indian Tribes hereby request that the United States Bureau of Land Management maintain a four (4) mile open space buffer zone on lands managed by said Bureau adjacent to the Colorado River Indian Reservation.

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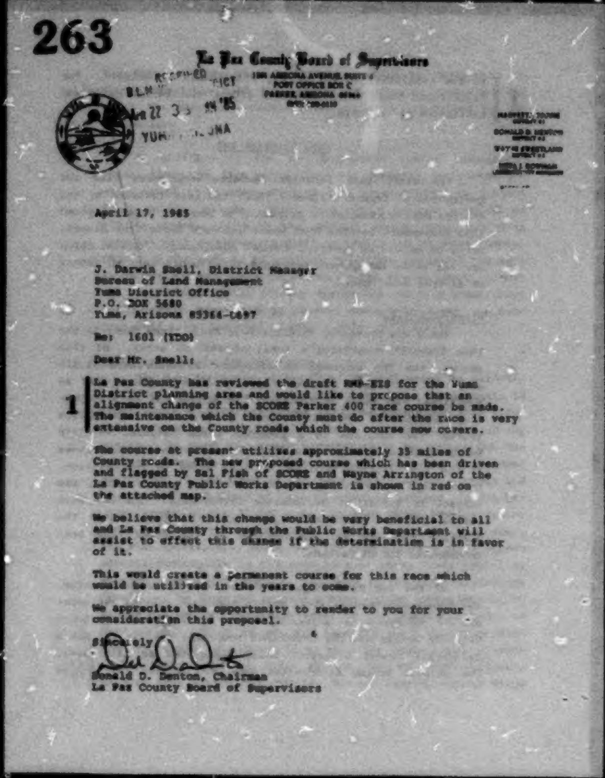

La Paz County Board of Supervisors
1108 Arizona Avenue, Suite 4
Post Office Box C
Parker, Arizona 85344

RECEIVED
BLM YUMA DISTRICT
APR 22 3 33 PM '85
YUMA, ARIZONA

April 17, 1985

J. Darwin Snell, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P.O. BOX 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-5697

Re: 1601 (YDO)

Dear Mr. Snell:

1 La Paz County has reviewed the draft RMP-EIS for the Yuma District planning area and would like to propose that an alignment change of the SCORE Parker 400 race course be made. The maintenance which the County must do after the race is very extensive on the County roads which the course now covers.

The course at present utilizes approximately 35 miles of County roads. The new proposed course which has been driven and flagged by Sal Fish of SCORE and Wayne Arrington of the La Paz County Public Works Department is shown in red on the attached map.

We believe that this change would be very beneficial to all and La Paz County through the Public Works Department will assist to effect this change if the determination is in favor of it.

This would create a permanent course for this race which would be utilized in the years to come.

We appreciate the opportunity to render to you for your consideration this proposal.

Sincerely,

Donald D. Denton, Chairman
La Paz County Board of Supervisors

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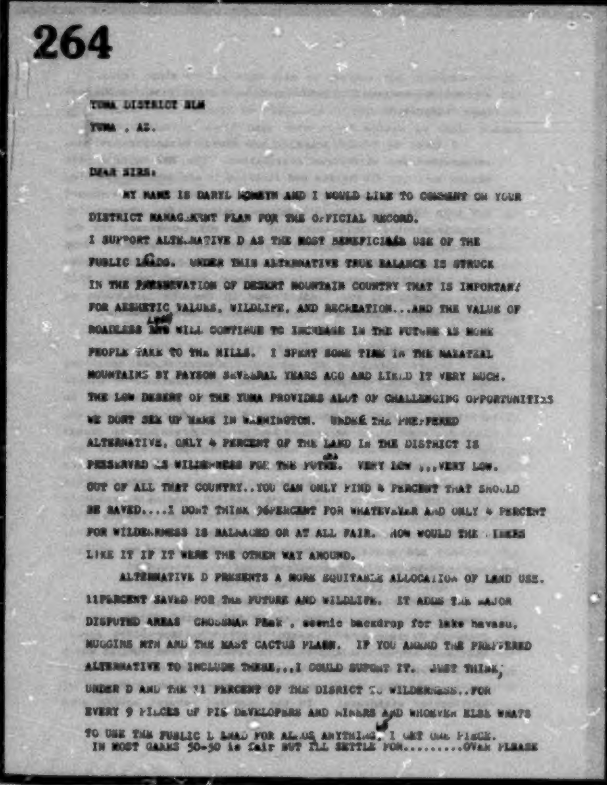


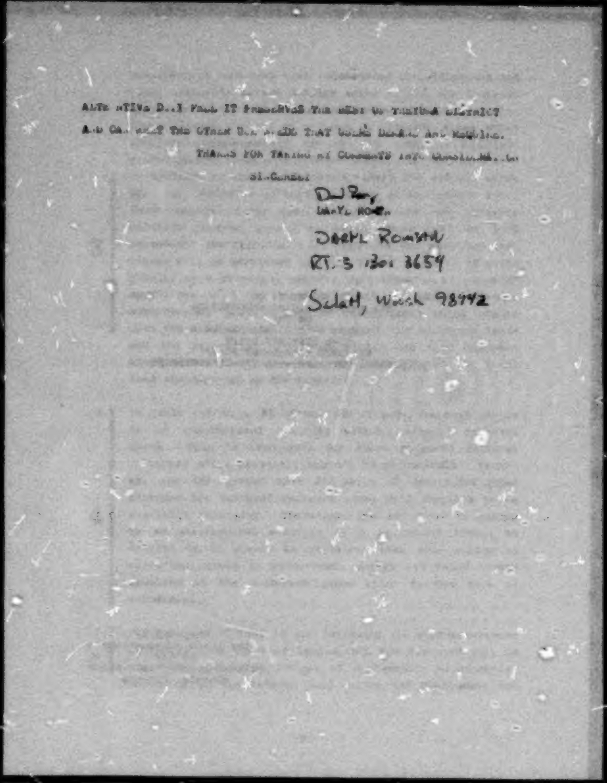
YUMA DISTRICT BLM

YUMA , AZ.

DEAR SIRS:

MY NAME IS DARYL ROMEYN AND I WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON YOUR DISTRICT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE OFFICIAL RECORD.
I SUPPORT ALTERNATIVE D AS THE MOST BENEFICIAL USE OF THE PUBLIC LANDS. UNDER THIS ALTERNATIVE TRUE BALANCE IS STRUCK IN THE PRESERVATION OF DESERT MOUNTAIN COUNTRY THAT IS IMPORTANT FOR AESHETIC VALUES, WILDLIFE, AND RECREATION...AND THE VALUE OF ROADLESS Land WILL CONTINUE TO INCREASE IN THE FUTURE AS MORE PEOPLE TAKE TO THE HILLS. I SPENT SOME TIME IN THE MAZATZAL MOUNTAINS BY PAYSON SEVEARAL YEARS AGO AND LIKED IT VERY MUCH. THE LOW DESERT OF THE YUMA PROVIDES ALOT OF CHALLENGING OPPORTUNITIES WE DONT SEE UP HERE IN WASHINGTON. UNDER THE PREFERED ALTERNATIVE, ONLY 4 PERCENT OF THE LAND IN THE DISTRICT IS PRESERVED AS WILDERNESS FOR THE FUTURE. VERY LOW ...VERY LOW. OUT OF ALL THAT COUNTRY..YOU CAN ONLY FIND 4 PERCENT THAT SHOULD BE SAVED....I DONT THINK 96PERCENT FOR WHATEVER AND ONLY 4 PERCENT FOR WILDERNESS IS BALANCED OR AT ALL FAIR. HOW WOULD THE MINERS LIKE IT IF IT WERE THE OTHER WAY AROUND.

ALTERNATIVE D PRESENTS A MORE EQUITABLE ALLOCATION OF LAND USE. 11PERCENT SAVED FOR THE FUTURE AND WILDLIFE. IT ADDS THE MAJOR DISPUTED AREAS CROSSMAN PEAK , scenic backdrop for lake havasu, MUGGINS MTN AND THE EAST CACTUS PLAIN. IF YOU AMEND THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE TO INCLUDE THESE...I COULD SUPPORT IT. JUST THINK, UNDER D AND THE 11 PERCENT OF THE DISRICT TO WILDERNESS..FOR EVERY 9 PIECES OF PIE DEVELOPERS AND MINERS AND WHOEVER ELSE WHATS TO USE THE PUBLIC LAND FOR ALMOS ANYTHING, I GET ONE PIECE.
IN MOST GAMES 50-50 is fair BUT I'LL SETTLE FOR.........OVER PLEASE



ALTERNATIVE D..I FEEL IT PRESERVES THE BEST OF THE YUMA DISTRICT AND CAN SPARE THE OTHER ... THAT WOULD DAMAGE AND ...
THANKS FOR TAKING MY COMMENTS INTO CONSIDERATION..
SINCERELY
Daryl Romeyn
DARYL ROMEYN

DARYL ROMEYN
RT. 3 Box 3659
Selah, Wash 98942

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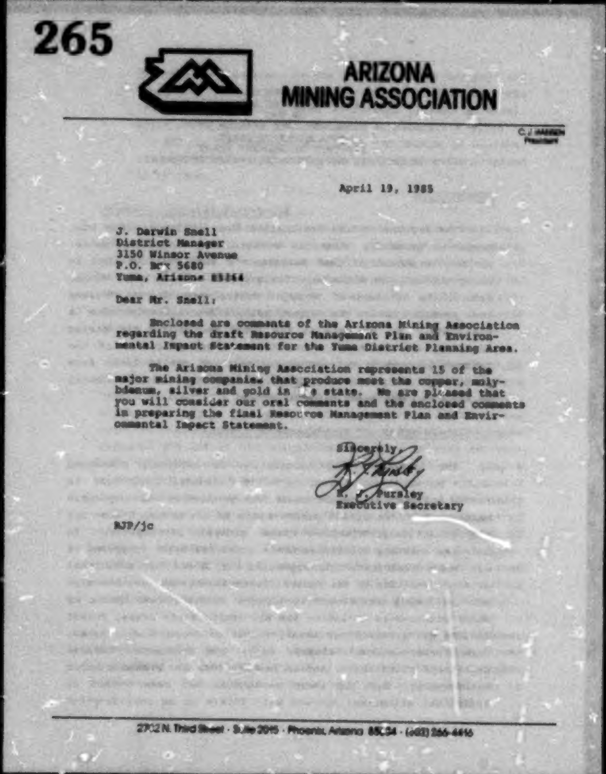


ARIZONA
MINING ASSOCIATION

C. J. HANSEN
President

April 19, 1985

J. Darwin Snell
District Manager
3150 Winsor Avenue
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364

Dear Mr. Snell:

Enclosed are comments of the Arizona Mining Association regarding the draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Yuma District Planning Area.

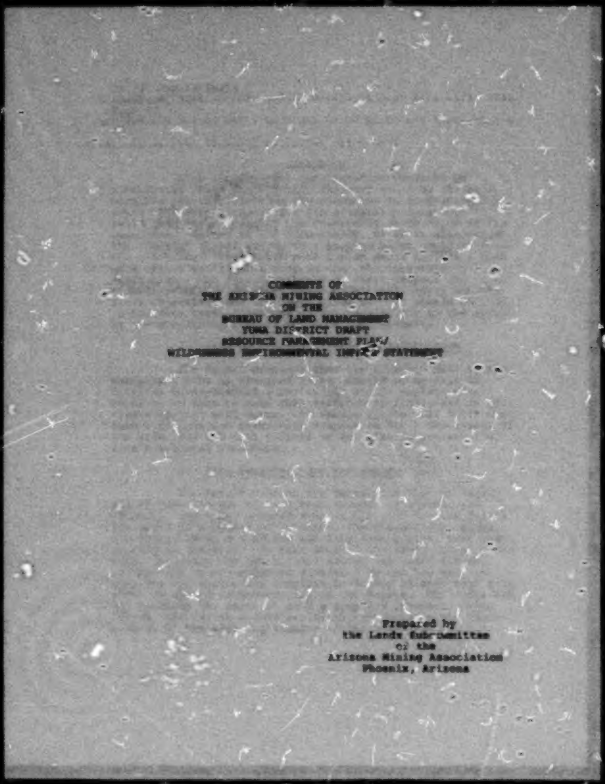
The Arizona Mining Association represents 15 of the major mining companies that produce most the copper, molybdenum, silver and gold in the state. We are pleased that you will consider our oral comments and the enclosed comments in preparing the final Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

R. J. Pursley
Executive Secretary

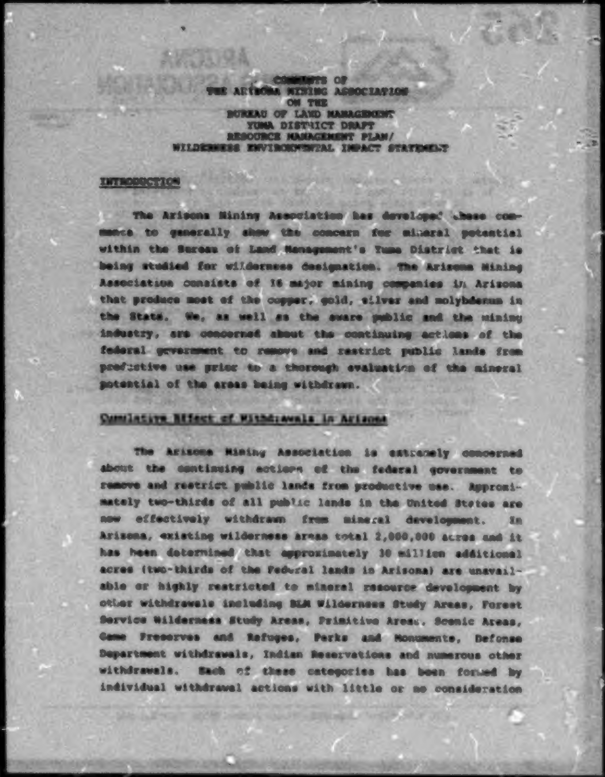
RJP/jc

2702 N. Third Street · Suite 2015 · Phoenix, Arizona 85004 · (602) 266-4416



COMMENTS OF
THE ARIZONA MINING ASSOCIATION
ON THE
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
YUMA DISTRICT DRAFT
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN/
WILDERNESS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Prepared by
the Lands Subcommittee
of the
Arizona Mining Association
Phoenix, Arizona



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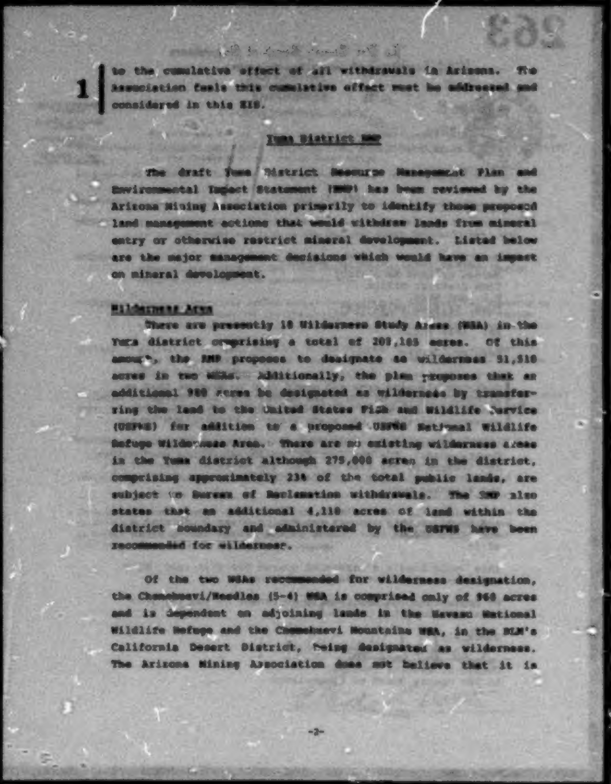
COMMENTS OF
THE ARIZONA MINING ASSOCIATION
ON THE
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
YUMA DISTRICT DRAFT
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN/
WILDERNESS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

INTRODUCTION

The Arizona Mining Association has developed these comments to generally show the concern for mineral potential within the Bureau of Land Management's Yuma District that is being studied for wilderness designation. The Arizona Mining Association consists of 16 major mining companies in Arizona that produce most of the copper, gold, silver and molybdenum in the State. We, as well as the aware public and the mining industry, are concerned about the continuing actions of the federal government to remove and restrict public lands from productive use prior to a thorough evaluation of the mineral potential of the areas being withdrawn.

Cumulative Effect of Withdrawals in Arizona

The Arizona Mining Association is extremely concerned about the continuing actions of the federal government to remove and restrict public lands from productive use. Approximately two-thirds of all public lands in the United States are now effectively withdrawn from mineral development. In Arizona, existing wilderness areas total 2,000,000 acres and it has been determined that approximately 30 million additional acres (two-thirds of the Federal lands in Arizona) are unavailable or highly restricted to mineral resource development by other withdrawals including BLM Wilderness Study Areas, Forest Service Wilderness Study Areas, Primitive Areas, Scenic Areas, Game Preserves and Refuges, Parks and Monuments, Defense Department withdrawals, Indian Reservations and numerous other withdrawals. Each of these categories has been formed by individual withdrawal actions with little or no consideration



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1 to the cumulative effect of all withdrawals in Arizona. The Association feels this cumulative effect must be addressed and considered in this EIS.

Yuma District RMP

The draft Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP) has been reviewed by the Arizona Mining Association primarily to identify those proposed land management actions that would withdraw lands from mineral entry or otherwise restrict mineral development. Listed below are the major management decisions which would have an impact on mineral development.

Wilderness Area

There are presently 10 Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) in the Yuma district comprising a total of 209,105 acres. Of this amount, the RMP proposes to designate as wilderness 51,510 acres in two WSAs. Additionally, the plan proposes that an additional 980 acres be designated as wilderness by transferring the land to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for addition to a proposed USFWS National Wildlife Refuge Wilderness Area. There are no existing wilderness areas in the Yuma district although 275,000 acres in the district, comprising approximately 23% of the total public lands, are subject to Bureau of Reclamation withdrawals. The RMP also states that an additional 4,110 acres of land within the district boundary and administered by the USFWS have been recommended for wilderness.

Of the two WSAs recommended for wilderness designation, the Chemehuevi/Needles (5-4) WSA is comprised only of 960 acres and is dependent on adjoining lands in the Havasu National Wildlife Refuge and the Chemehuevi Mountains WSA, in the BLM's California Desert District, being designated as wilderness. The Arizona Mining Association does not believe that it is

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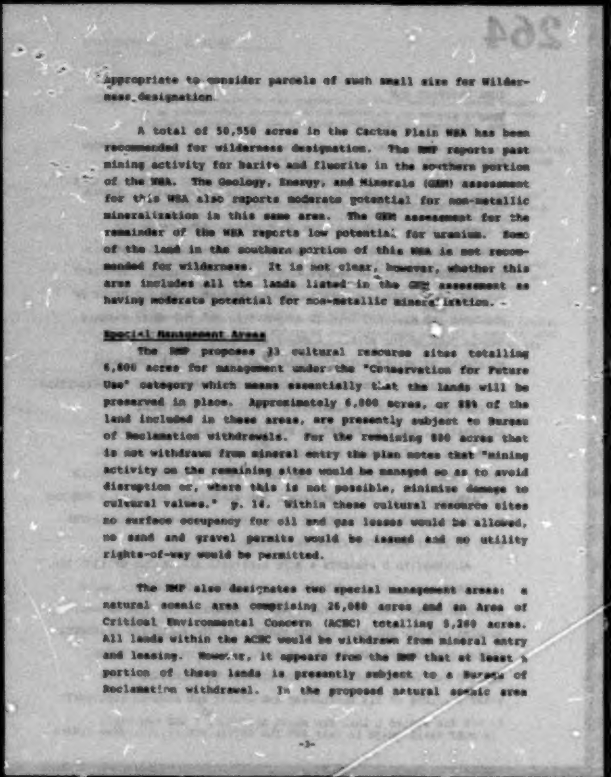

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appropriate to consider parcels of such small size for Wilderness designation.

A total of 50,550 acres in the Cactus Plain WSA has been recommended for wilderness designation. The RMP reports past mining activity for barite and fluorite in the southern portion of the WSA. The Geology, Energy, and Minerals (GEM) assessment for this WSA also reports moderate potential for non-metallic mineralization in this same area. The GEM assessment for the remainder of the WSA reports low potential for uranium. Some of the land in the southern portion of this WSA is not recommended for wilderness. It is not clear, however, whether this area includes all the lands listed in the GEM assessment as having moderate potential for non-metallic mineralization.

Special Management Areas

The RMP proposes 33 cultural resource sites totalling 6,800 acres for management under the "Conservation for Future Use" category which means essentially that the lands will be preserved in place. Approximately 6,000 acres, or 88% of the land included in these areas, are presently subject to Bureau of Reclamation withdrawals. For the remaining 800 acres that is not withdrawn from mineral entry the plan notes that "mining activity on the remaining sites would be managed so as to avoid disruption or, where this is not possible, minimize damage to cultural values." p. 14. Within these cultural resource sites no surface occupancy for oil and gas leases would be allowed, no sand and gravel permits would be issued and no utility rights-of-way would be permitted.

The RMP also designates two special management areas: a natural scenic area comprising 26,000 acres and an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) totalling 5,200 acres. All lands within the ACEC would be withdrawn from mineral entry and leasing. However, it appears from the RMP that at least a portion of these lands is presently subject to a Bureau of Reclamation withdrawal. In the proposed natural scenic area

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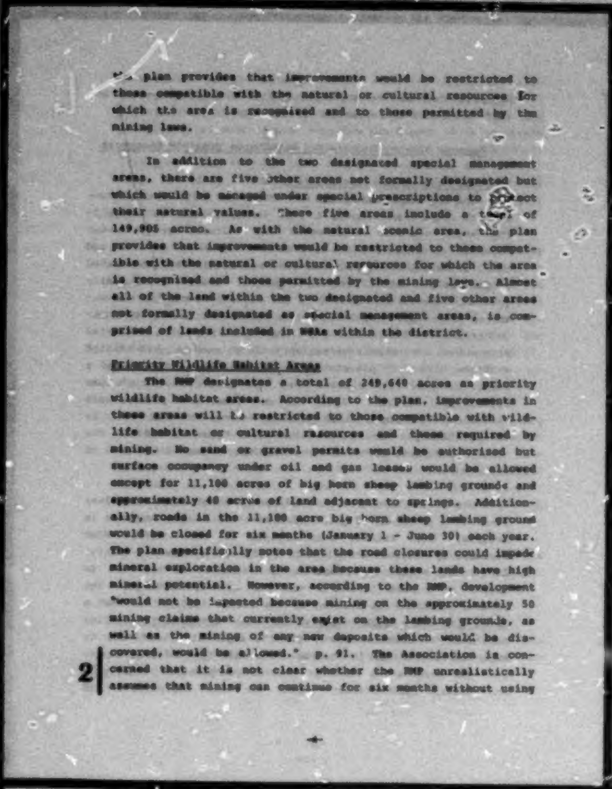

the plan provides that improvements would be restricted to those compatible with the natural or cultural resources for which the area is recognized and to those permitted by the mining laws.

In addition to the two designated special management areas, there are five other areas not formally designated but which would be managed under special prescriptions to protect their natural values. These five areas include a total of 149,905 acres. As with the natural scenic area, the plan provides that improvements would be restricted to those compatible with the natural or cultural resources for which the area is recognized and those permitted by the mining laws. Almost all of the land within the two designated and five other areas not formally designated as special management areas, is comprised of lands included in WSAs within the district.

Priority Wildlife Habitat Areas

The RMP designates a total of 249,640 acres as priority wildlife habitat areas. According to the plan, improvements in these areas will be restricted to those compatible with wildlife habitat or cultural resources and those required by mining. No sand or gravel permits would be authorized but surface occupancy under oil and gas leases would be allowed except for 11,100 acres of big horn sheep lambing grounds and approximately 40 acres of land adjacent to springs. Additionally, roads in the 11,100 acre big horn sheep lambing ground would be closed for six months (January 1 - June 30) each year. The plan specifically notes that the road closures could impede mineral exploration in the area because these lands have high mineral potential. However, according to the RMP, development "would not be impacted because mining on the approximately 50 mining claims that currently exist on the lambing grounds, as well as the mining of any new deposits which would be discovered, would be allowed." p. 91. The Association is concerned that it is not clear whether the RMP unrealistically assumes that mining can continue for six months without using

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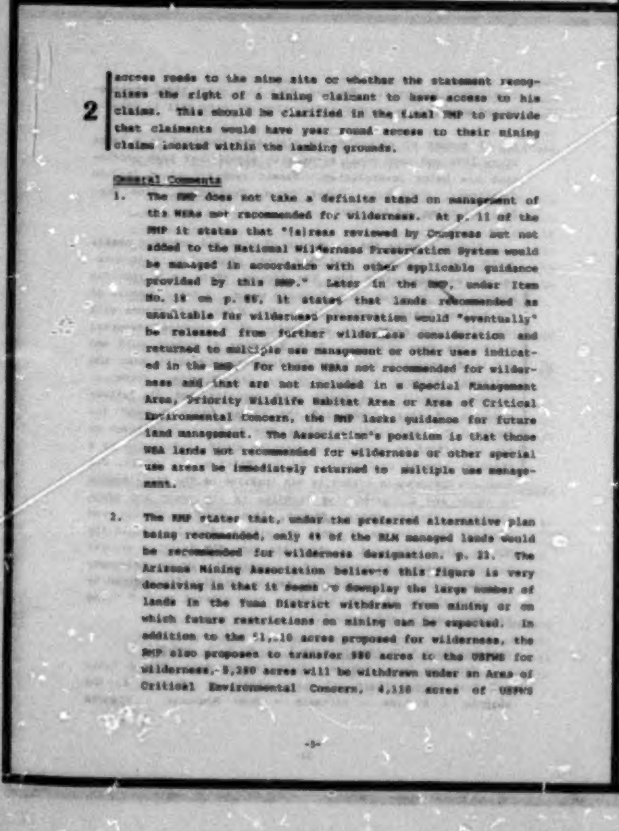

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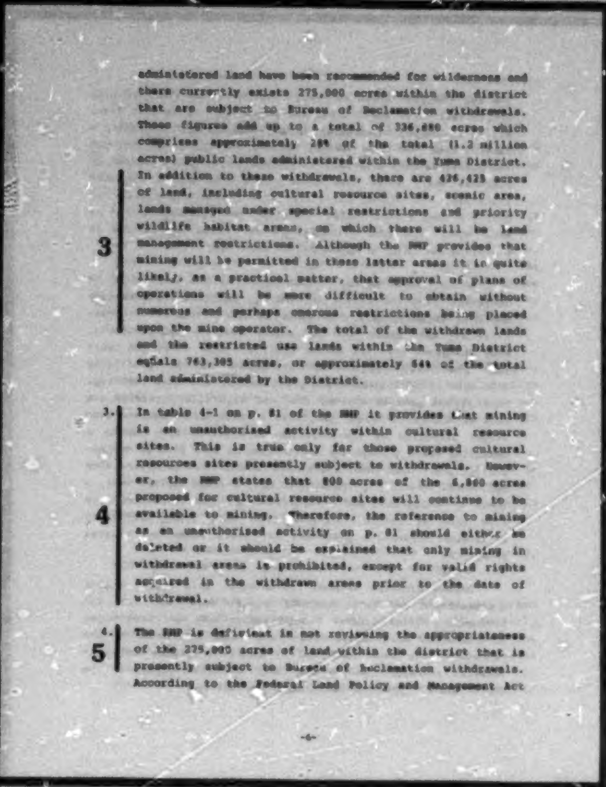
access roads to the mine site or whether the statement recognizes the right of a mining claimant to have access to his claims. This should be clarified in the final RMP to provide that claimants would have year round access to their mining claims located within the lambing grounds.

General Comments

1. The RMP does not take a definite stand on management of the WSAs not recommended for wilderness. At p. 11 of the RMP it states that "[a]reas reviewed by Congress but not added to the National Wilderness Preservation System would be managed in accordance with other applicable guidance provided by this RMP." Later in the RMP, under Item No. 18 on p. 89, it states that lands recommended as unsuitable for wilderness preservation would "eventually" be released from further wilderness consideration and returned to multiple use management or other uses indicated in the RMP. For those WSAs not recommended for wilderness and that are not included in a Special Management Area, Priority Wildlife Habitat Area or Area of Critical Environmental Concern, the RMP lacks guidance for future land management. The Association's position is that those WSA lands not recommended for wilderness or other special use areas be immediately returned to multiple use management.

2. The RMP states that, under the preferred alternative plan being recommended, only 4% of the BLM managed lands would be recommended for wilderness designation. p. 33. The Arizona Mining Association believes this figure is very deceiving in that it seems to downplay the large number of lands in the Yuma District withdrawn from mining or on which future restrictions on mining can be expected. In addition to the 51,110 acres proposed for wilderness, the RMP also proposes to transfer 980 acres to the USFWS for wilderness, 5,380 acres will be withdrawn under an Area of Critical Environmental Concern, 4,110 acres of USFWS



administered land have been recommended for wilderness and there currently exists 275,000 acres within the district that are subject to Bureau of Reclamation withdrawals. These figures add up to a total of 336,880 acres which comprises approximately 28% of the total (1.2 million acres) public lands administered within the Yuma District.

3

In addition to these withdrawals, there are 426,425 acres of land, including cultural resource sites, scenic area, lands managed under special restrictions and priority wildlife habitat areas, on which there will be land management restrictions. Although the RMP provides that mining will be permitted in these latter areas it is quite likely, as a practical matter, that approval of plans of operations will be more difficult to obtain without numerous and perhaps onerous restrictions being placed upon the mine operator. The total of the withdrawn lands and the restricted use lands within the Yuma District equals 763,305 acres, or approximately 64% of the total land administered by the District.

4

3. In table 4-1 on p. 81 of the RMP it provides that mining is an unauthorized activity within cultural resource sites. This is true only for those proposed cultural resources sites presently subject to withdrawals. However, the RMP states that 800 acres of the 6,000 acres proposed for cultural resource sites will continue to be available to mining. Therefore, the reference to mining as an unauthorized activity on p. 81 should either be deleted or it should be explained that only mining in withdrawal areas is prohibited, except for valid rights acquired in the withdrawn areas prior to the date of withdrawal.

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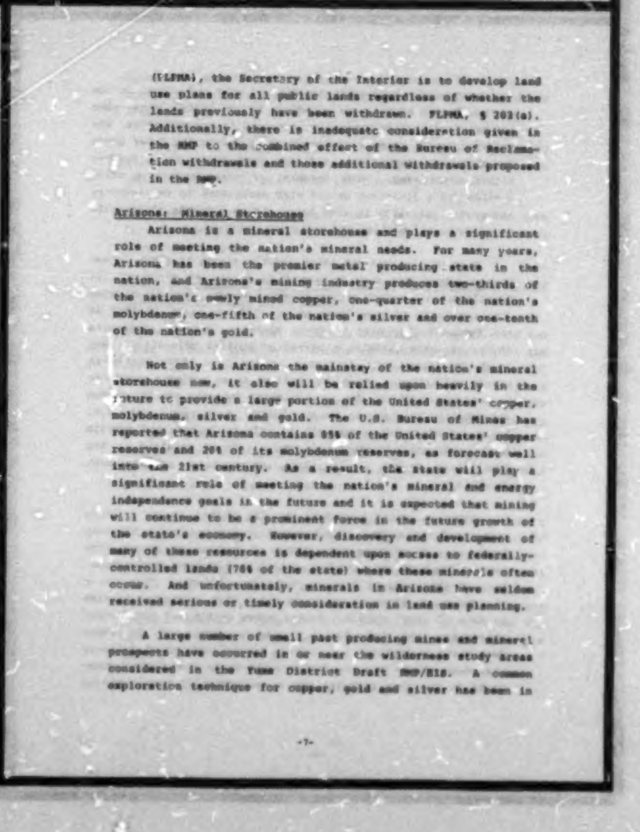
4. The RMP is deficient in not reviewing the appropriateness of the 275,000 acres of land within the district that is presently subject to Bureau of Reclamation withdrawals. According to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act



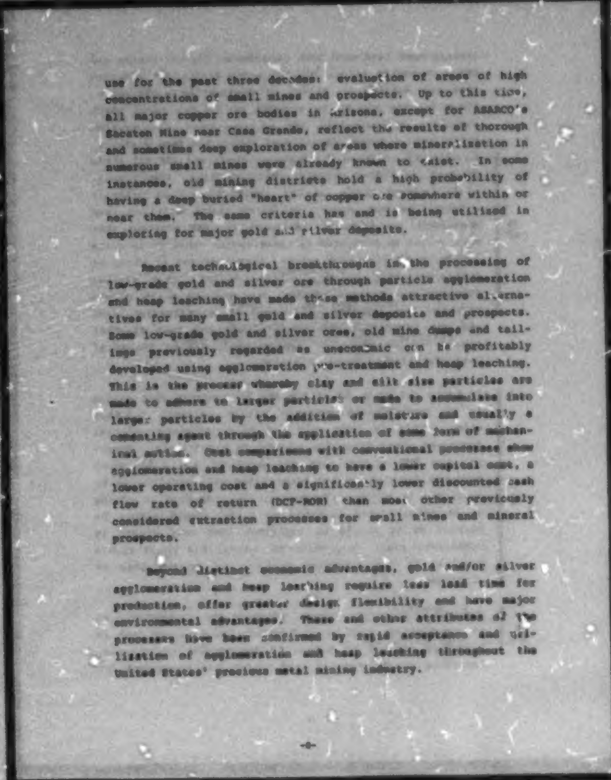
(FLPMA), the Secretary of the Interior is to develop land use plans for all public lands regardless of whether the lands previously have been withdrawn. FLPMA, § 202(a). Additionally, there is inadequate consideration given in the RMP to the combined effect of the Bureau of Reclamation withdrawals and those additional withdrawals proposed in the RMP.

Arizona: Mineral Storehouse

Arizona is a mineral storehouse and plays a significant role of meeting the nation's mineral needs. For many years, Arizona has been the premier metal producing state in the nation, and Arizona's mining industry produces two-thirds of the nation's newly mined copper, one-quarter of the nation's molybdenum, one-fifth of the nation's silver and over one-tenth of the nation's gold.

Not only is Arizona the mainstay of the nation's mineral storehouse now, it also will be relied upon heavily in the future to provide a large portion of the United States' copper, molybdenum, silver and gold. The U.S. Bureau of Mines has reported that Arizona contains 65% of the United States' copper reserves and 20% of its molybdenum reserves, as forecast well into the 21st century. As a result, the state will play a significant role of meeting the nation's mineral and energy independence goals in the future and it is expected that mining will continue to be a prominent force in the future growth of the state's economy. However, discovery and development of many of these resources is dependent upon access to federally-controlled lands (70% of the state) where these minerals often occur. And unfortunately, minerals in Arizona have seldom received serious or timely consideration in land use planning.

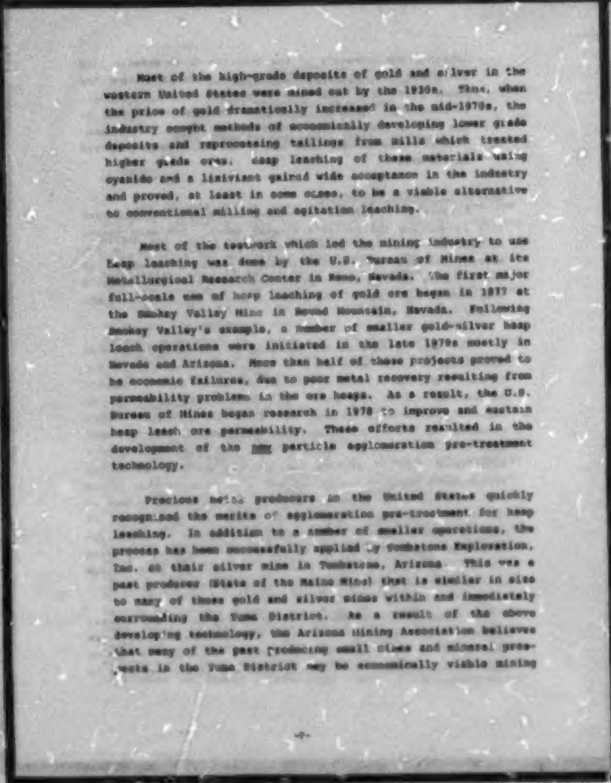
A large number of small past producing mines and mineral prospects have occurred in or near the wilderness study areas considered in the Yuma District Draft RMP/EIS. A common exploration technique for copper, gold and silver has been in



use for the past three decades: evaluation of areas of high concentrations of small mines and prospects. Up to this time, all major copper ore bodies in Arizona, except for ASARCO's Sacaton Mine near Casa Grande, reflect the results of thorough and sometimes deep exploration of areas where mineralization in numerous small mines were already known to exist. In some instances, old mining districts hold a high probability of having a deep buried "heart" of copper ore somewhere within or near them. The same criteria has and is being utilized in exploring for major gold and silver deposits.

Recent technological breakthroughs in the processing of low-grade gold and silver ore through particle agglomeration and heap leaching have made these methods attractive alternatives for many small gold and silver deposits and prospects. Some low-grade gold and silver ores, old mine dumps and tailings previously regarded as uneconomic can be profitably developed using agglomeration pre-treatment and heap leaching. This is the process whereby clay and silt size particles are made to adhere to larger particles or made to accumulate into larger particles by the addition of moisture and usually a cementing agent through the application of some form of mechanical action. Cost comparisons with conventional processes show agglomeration and heap leaching to have a lower capital cost, a lower operating cost and a significantly lower discounted cash flow rate of return (DCF-ROR) than most other previously considered extraction processes for small mines and mineral prospects.

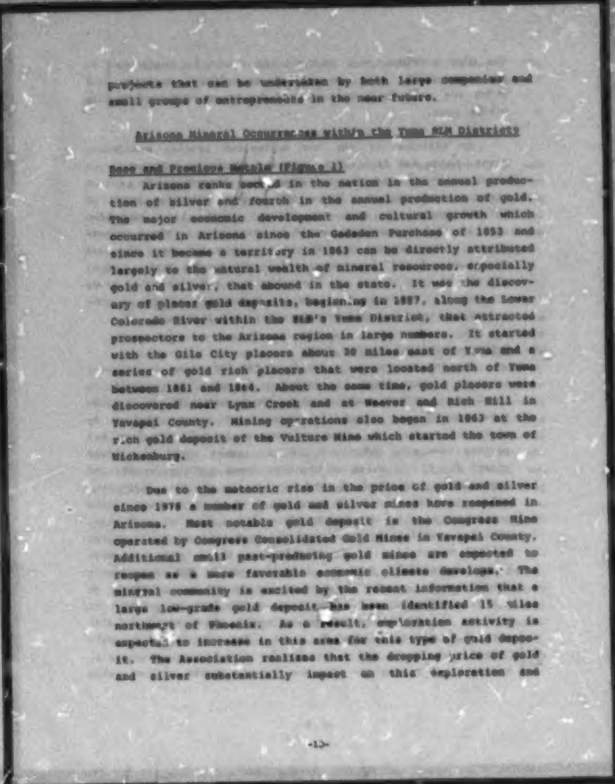
Beyond distinct economic advantages, gold and/or silver agglomeration and heap leaching require less lead time for production, offer greater design flexibility and have major environmental advantages. These and other attributes of the processes have been confirmed by rapid acceptance and utilization of agglomeration and heap leaching throughout the United States' precious metal mining industry.



Most of the high-grade deposits of gold and silver in the western United States were mined out by the 1930s. Thus, when the price of gold dramatically increased in the mid-1970s, the industry sought methods of economically developing lower grade deposits and reprocessing tailings from mills which treated higher grade ores. Heap leaching of these materials using cyanide and a lixiviant gained wide acceptance in the industry and proved, at least in some cases, to be a viable alternative to conventional milling and agitation leaching.

Most of the testwork which led the mining industry to use heap leaching was done by the U.S. Bureau of Mines at its Metallurgical Research Center in Reno, Nevada. The first major full-scale use of heap leaching of gold ore began in 1977 at the Smokey Valley Mine in Round Mountain, Nevada. Following Smokey Valley's example, a number of smaller gold-silver heap leach operations were initiated in the late 1970s mostly in Nevada and Arizona. More than half of these projects proved to be economic failures, due to poor metal recovery resulting from permeability problems in the ore heaps. As a result, the U.S. Bureau of Mines began research in 1978 to improve and sustain heap leach ore permeability. These efforts resulted in the development of the new particle agglomeration pre-treatment technology.

Precious metal producers in the United States quickly recognized the merits of agglomeration pre-treatment for heap leaching. In addition to a number of smaller operations, the process has been successfully applied by Tombstone Exploration, Inc. at their silver mine in Tombstone, Arizona. This was a past producer (State of the Maine Mine) that is similar in size to many of those gold and silver mines within and immediately surrounding the Yuma District. As a result of the above developing technology, the Arizona Mining Association believes that many of the past producing small mines and mineral prospects in the Yuma District may be economically viable mining



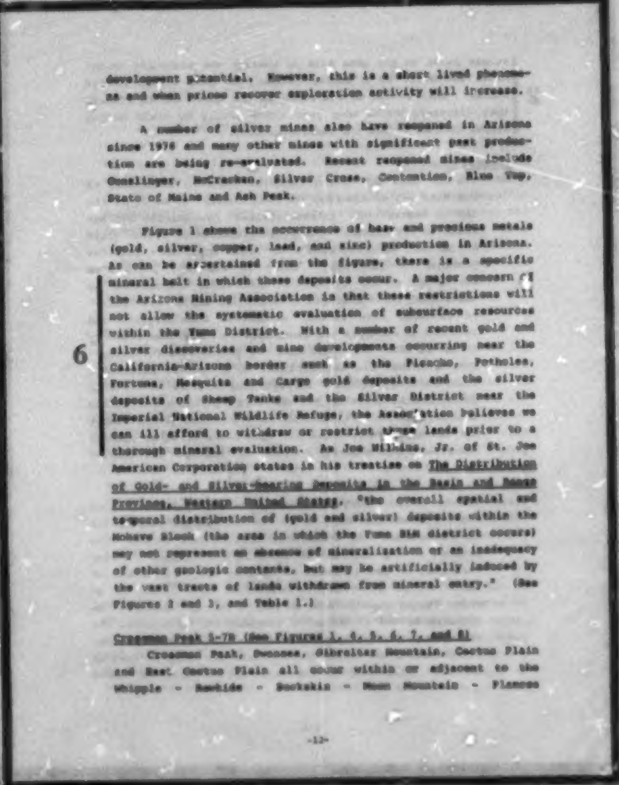
projects that can be undertaken by both large companies and small groups of entrepreneurs in the near future.

Arizona Mineral Occurrences within the Yuma BLM Districts

Base and Precious Metals (Figure 1)

Arizona ranks second in the nation in the annual production of silver and fourth in the annual production of gold. The major economic development and cultural growth which occurred in Arizona since the Gadsden Purchase of 1853 and since it became a territory in 1863 can be directly attributed largely to the natural wealth of mineral resources, especially gold and silver, that abound in the state. It was the discovery of placer gold deposits, beginning in 1857, along the Lower Colorado River within the BLM's Yuma District, that attracted prospectors to the Arizona region in large numbers. It started with the Gila City placers about 20 miles east of Yuma and a series of gold rich placers that were located north of Yuma between 1861 and 1864. About the same time, gold placers were discovered near Lynx Creek and at Weaver and Rich Hill in Yavapai County. Mining operations also began in 1863 at the rich gold deposit of the Vulture Mine which started the town of Wickenburg.

Due to the meteoric rise in the price of gold and silver since 1978 a number of gold and silver mines have reopened in Arizona. Most notable gold deposit is the Congress Mine operated by Congress Consolidated Gold Mines in Yavapai County. Additional small past-producing gold mines are expected to reopen as a more favorable economic climate develops. The mineral community is excited by the recent information that a large low-grade gold deposit has been identified 15 miles northwest of Phoenix. As a result, exploration activity is expected to increase in this area for this type of gold deposit. The Association realizes that the dropping price of gold and silver substantially impact on this exploration and



development potential. However, this is a short lived phenomena and when prices recover exploration activity will increase.

A number of silver mines also have reopened in Arizona since 1976 and many other mines with significant past production are being re-evaluated. Recent reopened mines include Gunslinger, McCracken, Silver Cross, Contention, Blue Top, State of Maine and Ash Peak.

6

Figure 1 shows the occurrence of base and precious metals (gold, silver, copper, lead, and zinc) production in Arizona. As can be ascertained from the figure, there is a specific mineral belt in which these deposits occur. A major concern of the Arizona Mining Association is that these restrictions will not allow the systematic evaluation of subsurface resources within the Yuma District. With a number of recent gold and silver discoveries and mine developments occurring near the California-Arizona border such as the Picacho, Potholes, Fortuna, Mesquite and Cargo gold deposits and the silver deposits of Sheep Tanks and the Silver District near the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge, the Association believes we can ill afford to withdraw or restrict these lands prior to a thorough mineral evaluation. As Joe Wilkins, Jr. of St. Joe American Corporation states in his treatise on The Distribution of Gold- and Silver-Bearing Deposits in the Basin and Range Province, Western United States, "the overall spatial and temporal distribution of (gold and silver) deposits within the Mohave Block (the area in which the Yuma BLM district occurs) may not represent an absence of mineralization or an inadequacy of other geologic contents, but may be artificially induced by the vast tracts of lands withdrawn from mineral entry." (See Figures 2 and 3, and Table 1.)

Crossman Peak 5-7B (See Figures 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8)

Crossman Peak, Swansea, Gibraltar Mountain, Cactus Plain and East Cactus Plain all occur within or adjacent to the Whipple - Rawhide - Buckskin - Moon Mountain - Plomosa extensional terrane which contains numerous copper and gold occurrences, mines with historic production and ongoing deposit definition. Crossman Peak is known to host lode base and precious metal occurrences; tungsten and copper occur in panned stream sediment samples in concentrations up to approximately 1000 ppm. The Swansea area comprises numerous Cu, Ag ± Au mines hosted by regionally extensive structures which control mineralization and which are considered to be prospective sites for future discovery.

In the western one-half of Section 19, T14N, R18W a fairly strong vein occurs striking N65°E, dipping 45°NW in which a drift was driven for approximately 100 feet. Two samples cut across the vein for 1.5 feet and 5 feet, and assayed 0.66% copper, 0.015 ounces per ton gold, and 2.70 opt silver and 0.020 copper, 0.23% lead, 0.05% zinc, 0.005 opt gold and 0.60 opt silver. This quartz vein ranges from 3 ft to 10 ft. in width. Mineralization consists of pyrite, galena and copper.

In addition, numerous mining companies have ongoing reconnaissance programs covering the area encompassing Crossman Peak WSA because their research indicates that the area is in a geologically favorable setting that can contain mineral deposits that are potentially economic. Two areas in particular show substantial possibilities for gold, silver, lead and copper mineralization as shown on Figure 7.

The Association recommends that this area be removed from further consideration for wilderness due to its significant mineral potential.

Gibraltar Mountain 5-12 (See Figures 1, 4, 5, 5, 9 and 13)

Section 34, T10N, R18W contains the old Mammon Mine and respective workings. The area has significant potential for copper and gold deposits.

At this time, the Association cannot take a firm position on these units. Additional studies will be necessary.

Swansea 5-15A (See Figures 1, 4, 5, 6, 12 and 13)

This WSA has excellent mineral potential with many exposures of mineralization including gold, copper, lead, zinc and silver.

This area has definite mineral possibilities. It is bordered to the southeast by the Swansea Mine, to the southeast by the Planet Mine, to the northwest by the Mineral Hill Mine, and to the north by the Cleopatra and Green Dragon Mines. The Swansea, Plant, and Mineral Hill properties have all produced significant amounts of copper, and their extensions into the proposed wilderness area present several prime exploration targets.

At the Mineral Hill Mine property right on the northeast edge of the WSA, there exists fairly extensive and widespread oxide copper and specularite mineralization. A few years ago this ore was partially mined and leached in large tanks which still exist at the mine.

On the southeast edge of the WSA the old Swansea mine is apparent. It still has some future potential as a producer. The Swansea shafts are within one and one-half miles of the WSA boundary.

On the east side of the WSA in Sections 16 and 21, T10N, R15W an old existing road crosses the width of the WSA.

A member company currently holds valid Federal unpatented lode mining claims in Sections 5 and 8, T10N, R16W entirely within the Swansea 5-15A Wilderness Study Area. They have done extensive exploration work in this area for the past 18 months and will probably correlate additional work in 1985. In addition, the mining company holds other varied claims in

Sections 6 and 7, T10N, R16W, and in Sections 1, 2, 11, 12, T10N, R17W immediately west of the proposed Wilderness Study Area.

Figure 12 shows the zones of excellent mineral potential within and contiguous to the unit. Figures 4, 5 and 6 also show the occurrence of substantial mineral potential.

The Association recommends that this area be removed from further consideration for wilderness due to its substantial mineral potential.

Trigo Mountains 5-23B and South Trigo Mountains 5-23A (See Figures 1, 4, 5, 6, 14, 15 and 17)

The Trigo Mountains WSA is located north of the well defined Silver District, including the Clip, Black Rock and Red Cloud historic producers. Extensive drilling programs in the early 1970s outlined open pittable reserves in excess of 5 million tons with an average approximate grade of 4 opt Ag and significant flourite, barite, lead and zinc. The mineralization occurs along the contact between Tertiary volcanic rocks and basement metamorphic rocks. The structures which control the mineralization trend north-south into the WSA where similar geologic environments prevail making this ground prospective for mineral development.

Gulf and Western Resources conducted a substantial amount of work in the Silver Mining District near the east boundary of the Trigo Mountains study area where Gulf and Western developed a significant tonnage of open pittable material with low-grade silver, and lead values along the mineralized vein outcrop crossing the Black Rock, Pacific, Red Cloud, and Silver Glance claims. Published data on this development lists 6,000,000 tons at an average grade of 4.5 opt ag, along with values in barium, lead, and zinc.

Many mining companies have examined several properties which are located within a radius of five miles to the northwest, including the Carnation, Billy Mack, Rio Vista, and Capilano mines. Mineralization as noted is in the form of chrysocolla and specularite together with traces of gold and silver. Assays range in value from .33% to 6.90% copper.

Chrysocolla and traces of silver may be seen along faults within the Paleozoic - Mesozoic limestones at the old Rio Vista mine roughly one and one-half miles northwest of the WSA in Section 26, T10N, R19W. There are several other old mines (6) from two to four miles north of the WSA. The ore deposits consist of small, pockety bodies with chrysocolla, malachite and specularite with which flaky gold sometimes is associated.

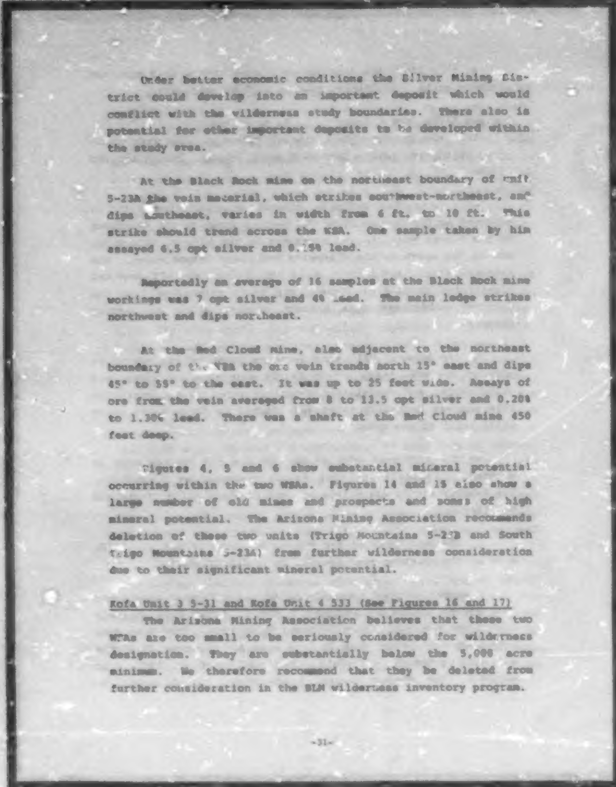
Figures 4, 5 and 6 indicate the presence of iron, copper and gold mineralization.

The Association recommends that this area be removed from further consideration for wilderness due to its significant mineral potential in the northern portion of the WSA and due to the small size of the parcel after excluding the high mineral potential area.

Cactus Plain 5-14 A/B and East Cactus Plain 5-17 (See Figures 1, 4, 5, 6, 10, 11 and 13)

The area has shows of iron, beryllium, copper and gold as indicated on Figures 4, 5 and 6. It also occurs within Arizona's highly mineralization precious metal zone. However, due to the paucity of outcrops a thorough evaluation of this WSA could not be conducted.

This area, located to the north of Bouse, shows numerous old workings which were prospected for gold. Work carried out by member company geologists on the Little Butte Gold Mines property indicated potential for a significant tonnage of mineralized material grading up to .09 opt Au.



Under better economic conditions the Silver Mining District could develop into an important deposit which would conflict with the wilderness study boundaries. There also is potential for other important deposits to be developed within the study area.

At the Black Rock mine on the northeast boundary of unit 5-23A the vein material, which strikes southwest-northeast, and dips southeast, varies in width from 6 ft. to 10 ft. This strike should trend across the WSA. One sample taken by him assayed 6.5 opt silver and 0.15% lead.

Reportedly an average of 16 samples at the Black Rock mine workings was 7 opt silver and 4% lead. The main ledge strikes northwest and dips northeast.

At the Red Cloud mine, also adjacent to the northeast boundary of the WSA the ore vein trends north 15° east and dips 45° to 55° to the east. It was up to 25 feet wide. Assays of ore from the vein averaged from 8 to 13.5 opt silver and 0.20% to 1.30% lead. There was a shaft at the Red Cloud mine 450 feet deep.

Figures 4, 5 and 6 show substantial mineral potential occurring within the two WSAs. Figures 14 and 15 also show a large number of old mines and prospects and zones of high mineral potential. The Arizona Mining Association recommends deletion of these two units (Trigo Mountains 5-23B and South Trigo Mountains 5-23A) from further wilderness consideration due to their significant mineral potential.

Kofa Unit 3 5-31 and Kofa Unit 4 533 (See Figures 16 and 17)

The Arizona Mining Association believes that these two WSAs are too small to be seriously considered for wilderness designation. They are substantially below the 5,000 acre minimum. We therefore recommend that they be deleted from further consideration in the BLM wilderness inventory program.

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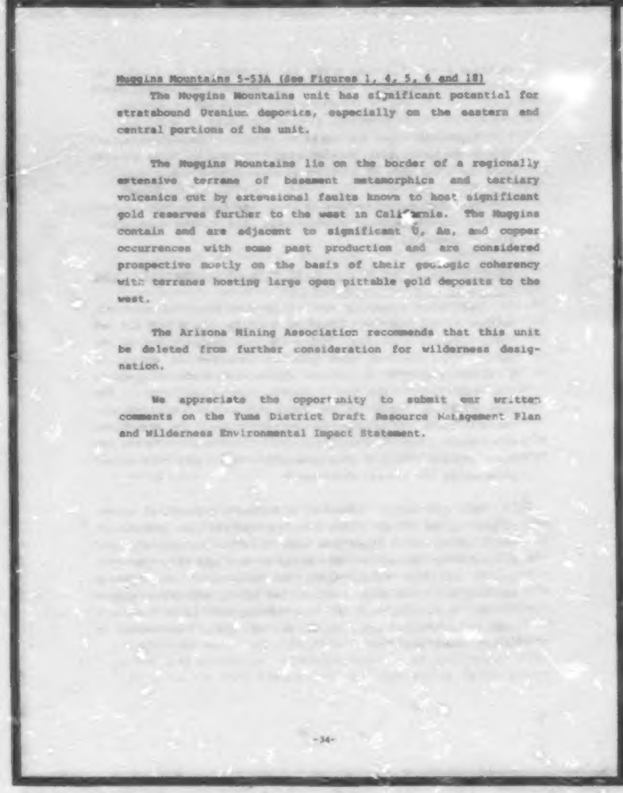

Muggins Mountains 5-53A (See Figures 1, 4, 5, 6 and 18)

The Muggins Mountains unit has significant potential for stratabound Uranium deposits, especially on the eastern and central portions of the unit.

The Muggins Mountains lie on the border of a regionally extensive terrane of basement metamorphics and tertiary volcanics cut by extensional faults known to host significant gold reserves further to the west in California. The Muggins contain and are adjacent to significant U, Au, and copper occurrences with some past production and are considered prospective mostly on the basis of their geologic coherency with terranes hosting large open pittable gold deposits to the west.

The Arizona Mining Association recommends that this unit be deleted from further consideration for wilderness designation.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit our written comments on the Yuma District Draft Resource Management Plan and Wilderness Environmental Impact Statement.

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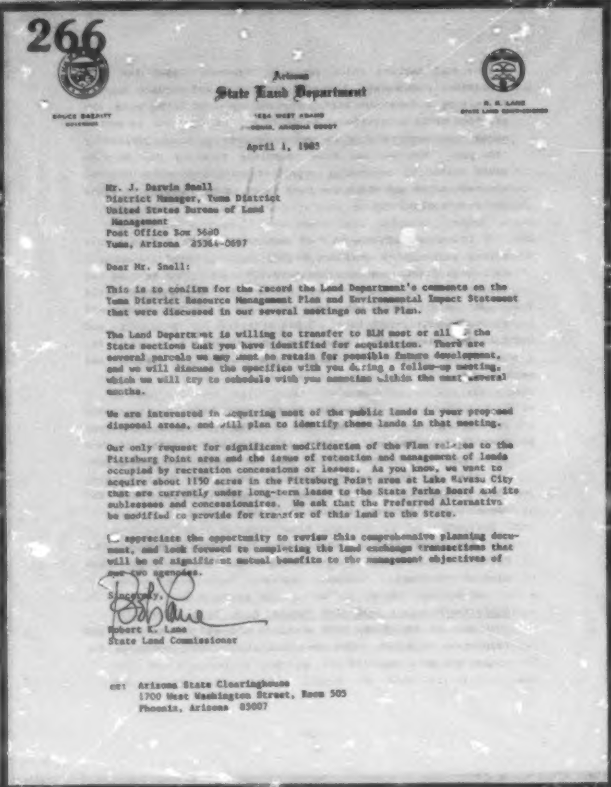

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Arizona
State Land Department
1624 West Adams
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Bruce Babbitt
Governor

R. K. Lane
State Land Commissioner

April 1, 1985

Mr. J. Darwin Snell
District Manager, Yuma District
United States Bureau of Land
 Management
Post Office Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

Dear Mr. Snell:

This is to confirm for the record the Land Department's comments on the Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement that were discussed in our several meetings on the Plan.

The Land Department is willing to transfer to BLM most or all of the State sections that you have identified for acquisition. There are several parcels we may want to retain for possible future development, and we will discuss the specifics with you during a follow-up meeting, which we will try to schedule with you sometime within the next several months.

We are interested in acquiring most of the public lands in your proposed disposal areas, and will plan to identify these lands in that meeting.

Our only request for significant modification of the Plan relates to the Pittsburg Point area and the issue of retention and management of lands occupied by recreation concessions or leases. As you know, we want to acquire about 1150 acres in the Pittsburg Point area at Lake Havasu City that are currently under long-term lease to the State Parks Board and its sublessees and concessionaires. We ask that the Preferred Alternative be modified to provide for transfer of this land to the State.

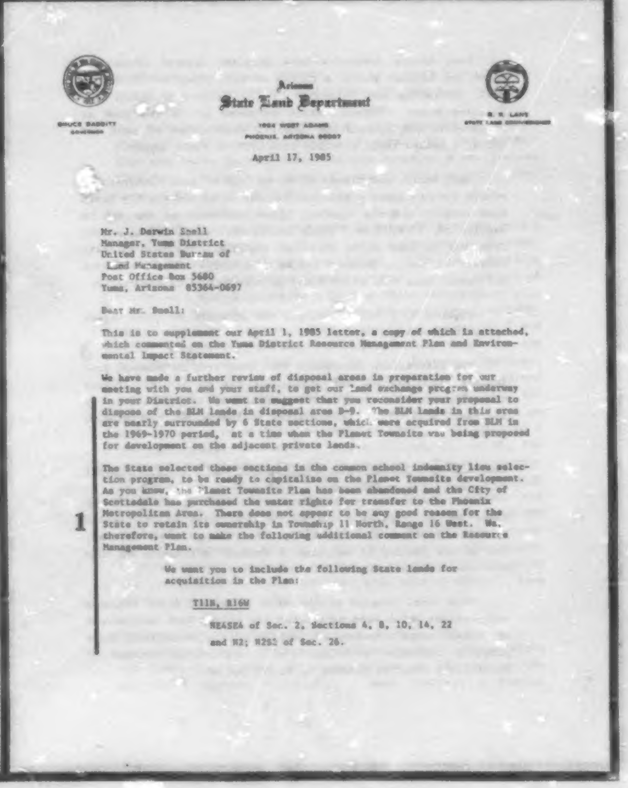
We appreciate the opportunity to review this comprehensive planning document, and look forward to completing the land exchange transactions that will be of significant mutual benefits to the management objectives of our two agencies.

Sincerely,

Bob Lane

Robert K. Lane
State Land Commissioner

cc: Arizona State Clearinghouse
1700 West Washington Street, Room 505
Phoenix, Arizona 85007



Arizona
State Land Department
1624 West Adams
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Bruce Babbitt
Governor

R. K. Lane
State Land Commissioner

April 17, 1985

Mr. J. Darwin Snell
Manager, Yuma District
United States Bureau of
 Land Management
Post Office Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

Dear Mr. Snell:

This is to supplement our April 1, 1985 letter, a copy of which is attached, which commented on the Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

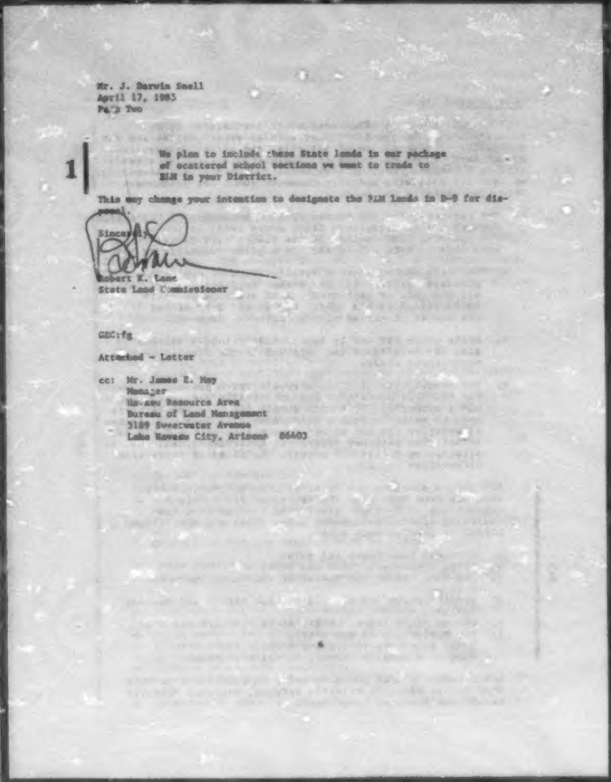
We have made a further review of disposal areas in preparation for our meeting with you and your staff, to get our land exchange program underway in your District. We want to suggest that you reconsider your proposal to dispose of the BLM lands in disposal area D-9. The BLM lands in this area are nearly surrounded by 6 State sections, which were acquired from BLM in the 1969-1970 period, at a time when the Planet Townsite was being proposed for development on the adjacent private lands.

1 The State selected these sections in the common school indemnity lieu selection program, to be ready to capitalize on the Planet Townsite development. As you know, the Planet Townsite Plan has been abandoned and the City of Scottsdale has purchased the water rights for transfer to the Phoenix Metropolitan Area. There does not appear to be any good reason for the State to retain its ownership in Township 11 North, Range 16 West. We, therefore, want to make the following additional comment on the Resource Management Plan.

We want you to include the following State lands for acquisition in the Plan:

T11N, R16W

NE4SE4 of Sec. 2, Sections 4, 8, 10, 14, 22
and N2; N2S2 of Sec. 26.



Mr. J. Darwin Snell
April 17, 1985
Page Two

1 We plan to include these State lands in our package of scattered school sections we want to trade to BLM in your District.

This may change your intention to designate the BLM lands in B-9 for disposal.

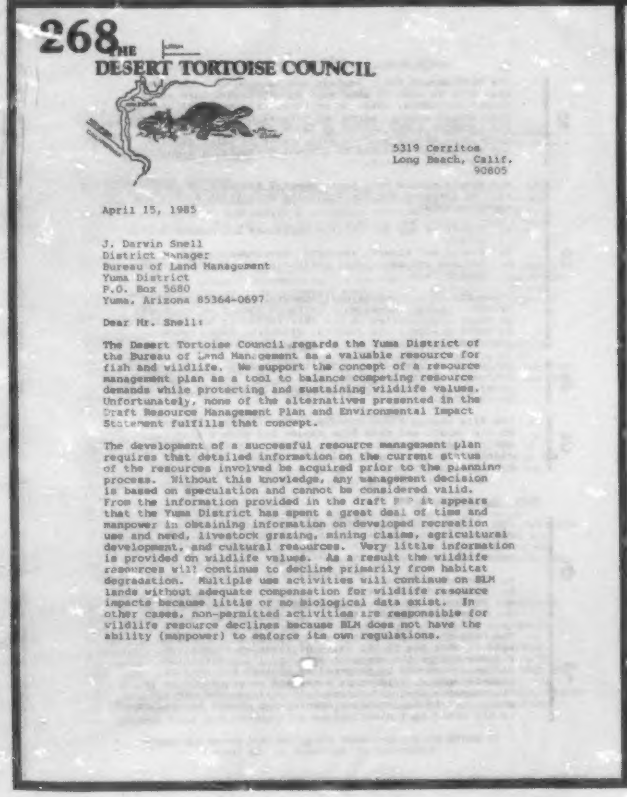
Sincerely,

Robert K. Lane
State Land Commissioner

GEC:fg

Attached - Letter

cc: Mr. James E. May
Manager
Havasu Resource Area
Bureau of Land Management
3189 Sweetwater Avenue
Lake Havasu City, Arizona 86403



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THE DESERT TORTOISE COUNCIL

5319 Cerritos
Long Beach, Calif.
90805

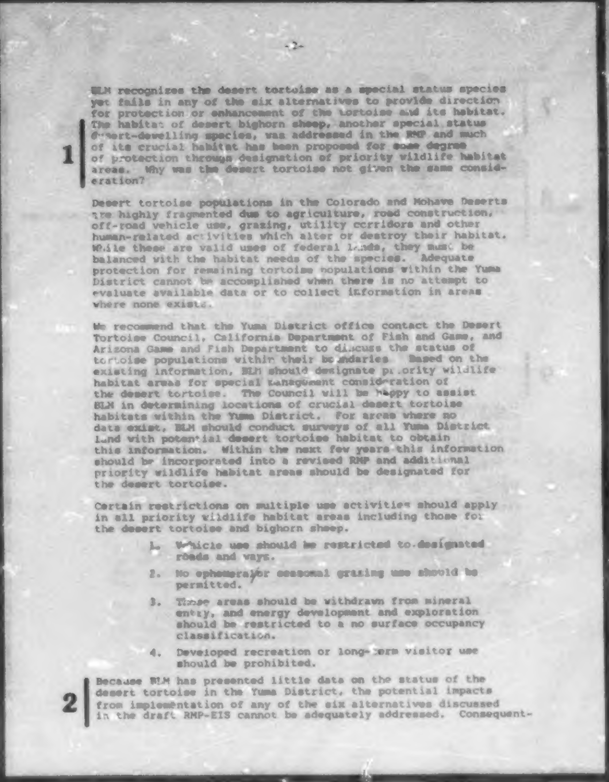
April 15, 1985

J. Darwin Snell
District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

Dear Mr. Snell:

The Desert Tortoise Council regards the Yuma District of the Bureau of Land Management as a valuable resource for fish and wildlife. We support the concept of a resource management plan as a tool to balance competing resource demands while protecting and sustaining wildlife values. Unfortunately, none of the alternatives presented in the Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement fulfills that concept.

The development of a successful resource management plan requires that detailed information on the current status of the resources involved be acquired prior to the planning process. Without this knowledge, any management decision is based on speculation and cannot be considered valid. From the information provided in the draft RMP it appears that the Yuma District has spent a great deal of time and manpower in obtaining information on developed recreation use and need, livestock grazing, mining claims, agricultural development, and cultural resources. Very little information is provided on wildlife values. As a result the wildlife resources will continue to decline primarily from habitat degradation. Multiple use activities will continue on BLM lands without adequate compensation for wildlife resource impacts because little or no biological data exist. In other cases, non-permitted activities are responsible for wildlife resource declines because BLM does not have the ability (manpower) to enforce its own regulations.



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1 BLM recognizes the desert tortoise as a special status species yet fails in any of the six alternatives to provide direction for protection or enhancement of the tortoise and its habitat. The habitat of desert bighorn sheep, another special status desert-dwelling species, was addressed in the RMP and much of its crucial habitat has been proposed for some degree of protection through designation of priority wildlife habitat areas. Why was the desert tortoise not given the same consideration?

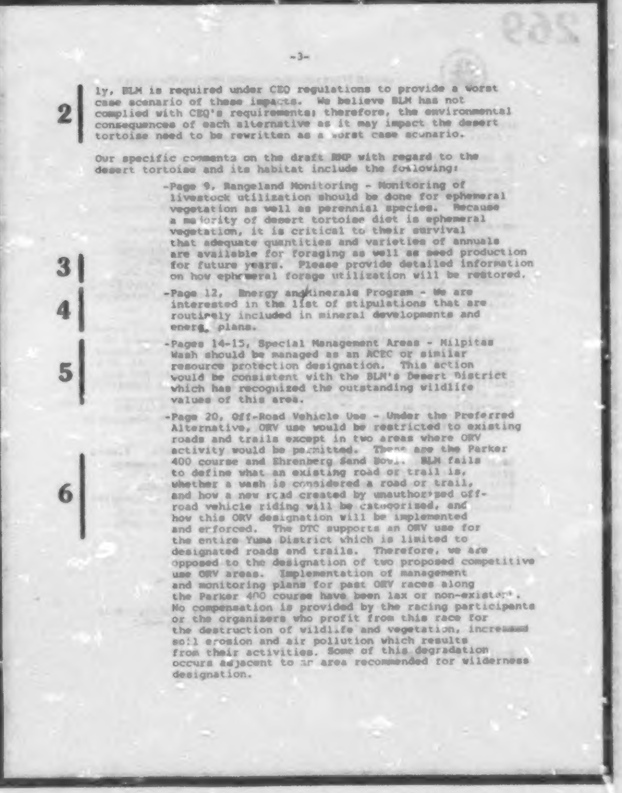
Desert tortoise populations in the Colorado and Mohave Deserts are highly fragmented due to agriculture, road construction, off-road vehicle use, grazing, utility corridors and other human-related activities which alter or destroy their habitat. While these are valid uses of federal lands, they must be balanced with the habitat needs of the species. Adequate protection for remaining tortoise populations within the Yuma District cannot be accomplished when there is no attempt to evaluate available data or to collect information in areas where none exists.

We recommend that the Yuma District office contact the Desert Tortoise Council, California Department of Fish and Game, and Arizona Game and Fish Department to discuss the status of tortoise populations within their boundaries. Based on the existing information, BLM should designate priority wildlife habitat areas for special management consideration of the desert tortoise. The Council will be happy to assist BLM in determining locations of crucial desert tortoise habitats within the Yuma District. For areas where no data exist, BLM should conduct surveys of all Yuma District land with potential desert tortoise habitat to obtain this information. Within the next few years this information should be incorporated into a revised RMP and additional priority wildlife habitat areas should be designated for the desert tortoise.

Certain restrictions on multiple use activities should apply in all priority wildlife habitat areas including those for the desert tortoise and bighorn sheep.

1. Vehicle use should be restricted to designated roads and ways.
2. No ephemeral/or seasonal grazing use should be permitted.
3. These areas should be withdrawn from mineral entry, and energy development and exploration should be restricted to a no surface occupancy classification.
4. Developed recreation or long-term visitor use should be prohibited.

2 Because BLM has presented little data on the status of the desert tortoise in the Yuma District, the potential impacts from implementation of any of the six alternatives discussed in the draft RMP-EIS cannot be adequately addressed. Consequently, BLM is required under CEQ regulations to provide a worst case scenario of these impacts. We believe BLM has not complied with CEQ's requirements; therefore, the environmental consequences of each alternative as it may impact the desert tortoise need to be rewritten as a worst case scenario.



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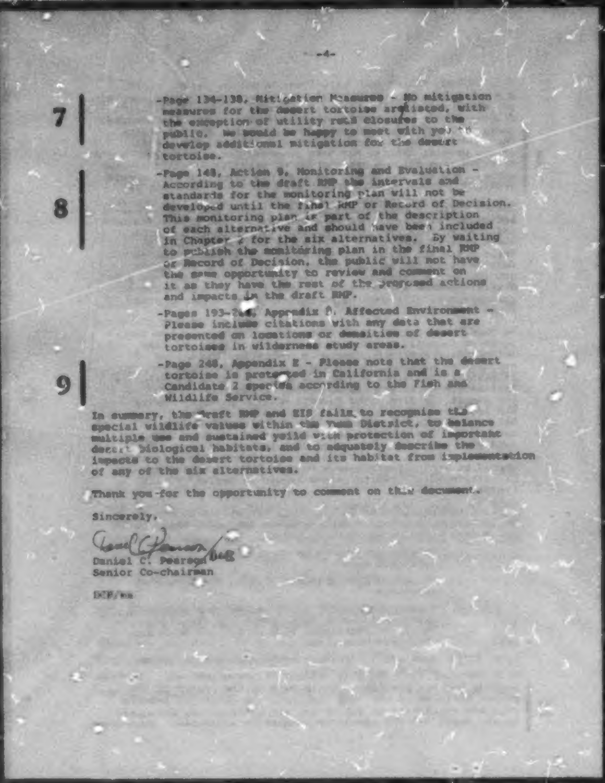
Our specific comments on the draft RMP with regard to the desert tortoise and its habitat include the following:

3 -Page 9, Rangeland Monitoring - Monitoring of livestock utilization should be done for ephemeral vegetation as well as perennial species. Because a majority of desert tortoise diet is ephemeral vegetation, it is critical to their survival that adequate quantities and varieties of annuals are available for foraging as well as seed production for future years. Please provide detailed information on how ephemeral forage utilization will be restored.

4 -Page 12, Energy and Minerals Program - We are interested in the list of stipulations that are routinely included in mineral developments and energy plans.

5 -Pages 14-15, Special Management Areas - Milpitas Wash should be managed as an ACEC or similar resource protection designation. This action would be consistent with the BLM's Desert District which has recognized the outstanding wildlife values of this area.

6 -Page 20, Off-Road Vehicle Use - Under the Preferred Alternative, ORV use would be restricted to existing roads and trails except in two areas where ORV activity would be permitted. These are the Parker 400 course and Ehrenberg Sand Bowl. BLM fails to define what an existing road or trail is, whether a wash is considered a road or trail, and how a new road created by unauthorized off-road vehicle riding will be categorized, and how this ORV designation will be implemented and enforced. The DTC supports an ORV use for the entire Yuma District which is limited to designated roads and trails. Therefore, we are opposed to the designation of two proposed competitive use ORV areas. Implementation of management and monitoring plans for past ORV races along the Parker 400 course have been lax or non-existent. No compensation is provided by the racing participants or the organizers who profit from this race for the destruction of wildlife and vegetation, increased soil erosion and air pollution which results from their activities. Some of this degradation occurs adjacent to an area recommended for wilderness designation.



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7 -Page 134-138, Mitigation Measures - No mitigation measures for the desert tortoise are listed, with the exception of utility road closures to the public. We would be happy to meet with you to develop additional mitigation for the desert tortoise.

8 -Page 148, Action 9, Monitoring and Evaluation - According to the draft RMP the intervals and standards for the monitoring plan will not be developed until the final RMP or Record of Decision. This monitoring plan is part of the description of each alternative and should have been included in Chapter 2 for the six alternatives. By waiting to publish the monitoring plan in the final RMP or Record of Decision, the public will not have the same opportunity to review and comment on it as they have the rest of the proposed actions and impacts in the draft RMP.

-Pages 193-2[illegible], Appendix [illegible], Affected Environment - Please include citations with any data that are presented on locations or densities of desert tortoises in wilderness study areas.

9 -Page 248, Appendix E - Please note that the desert tortoise is protected in California and is a Candidate 2 species according to the Fish and Wildlife Service.

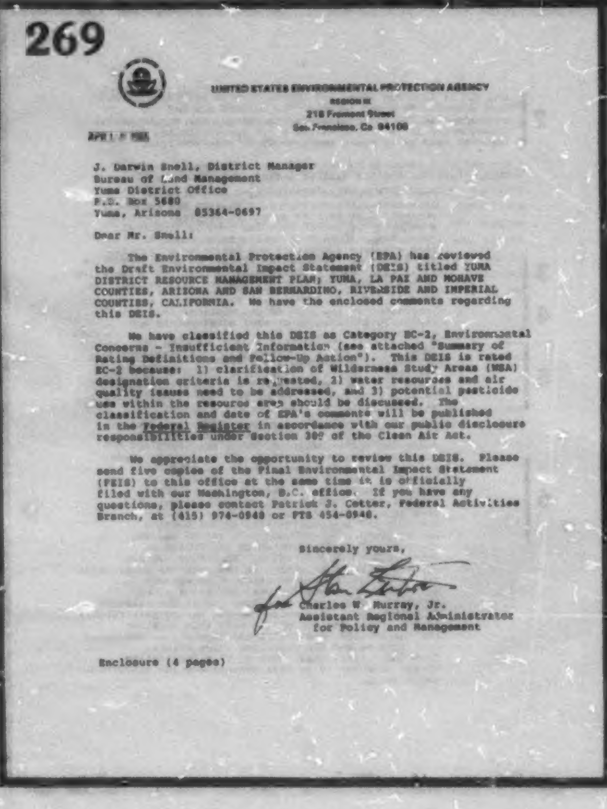
In summary, the draft RMP and EIS fails to recognize the special wildlife values within the Yuma District, to balance multiple use and sustained yeild with protection of important desert biological habitats, and to adquately describe the impacts to the desert tortoise and its habitat from implementation of any of the six alternatives.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this document.

Sincerely,

Daniel C. Pearson
Senior Co-chairman

DCP/ma



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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
215 Fremont Street
San Francisco, Ca 94105

APR 1 [illegible]

J. Darwin Snell, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

Dear Mr. Snell:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) titled YUMA DISTRICT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN; YUMA, LA PAZ AND MOHAVE COUNTIES, ARIZONA AND SAN BERNARDINO, RIVERSIDE AND IMPERIAL COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA. We have the enclosed comments regarding this DEIS.

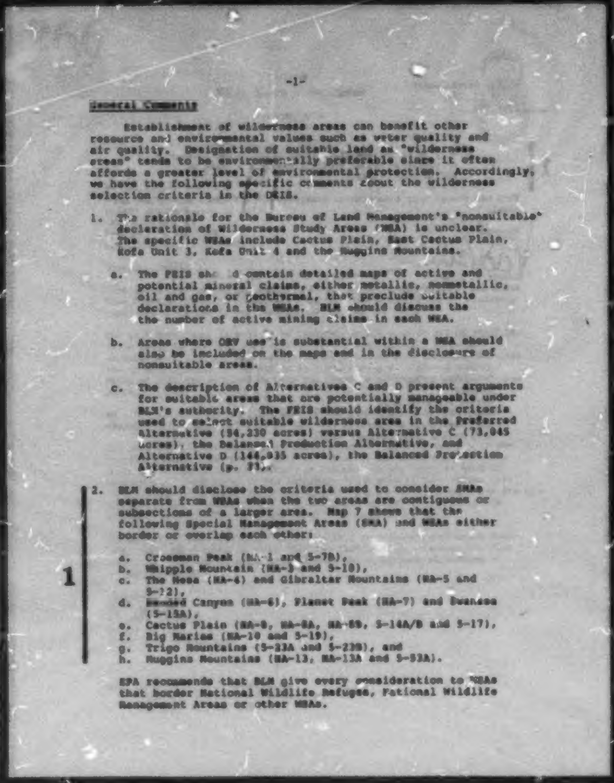
We have classified this DEIS as Category EC-2, Environmental Concerns - Insufficient Information (see attached "Summary of Rating Definitions and Follow-Up Action"). This DEIS is rated EC-2 because: 1) clarification of Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) designation criteria is requested, 2) water resources and air quality issues need to be addressed, and 3) potential pesticide use within the resource area should be discussed. The classification and date of EPA's comments will be published in the Federal Register in accordance with our public disclosure responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this DEIS. Please send five copies of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to this office at the same time it is officially filed with our Washington, D.C. office. If you have any questions, please contact Patrick J. Cotter, Federal Activities Branch, at (415) 974-0948 or FTS 454-0948.

Sincerely yours,

for Charles W. Murray, Jr.
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Policy and Management

Enclosure (4 pages)



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General Comments

Establishment of wilderness areas can benefit other resource and environmental values such as water quality and air quality. Designation of suitable land as "wilderness areas" tends to be environmentally preferable since it often affords a greater level of environmental protection. Accordingly, we have the following specific comments about the wilderness selection criteria in the DEIS.

1. The rationale for the Bureau of Land Management's "nonsuitable" declaration of Wilderness Study Areas (WSA) is unclear. The specific WSAs include Cactus Plain, East Cactus Plain, Kofa Unit 3, Kofa Unit 4 and the Muggins Mountains.

   a. The FEIS should contain detailed maps of active and potential mineral claims, either metallic, nonmetallic, oil and gas, or geothermal, that preclude suitable declarations in the WSAs. BLM should discuss the the number of active mining claims in each WSA.

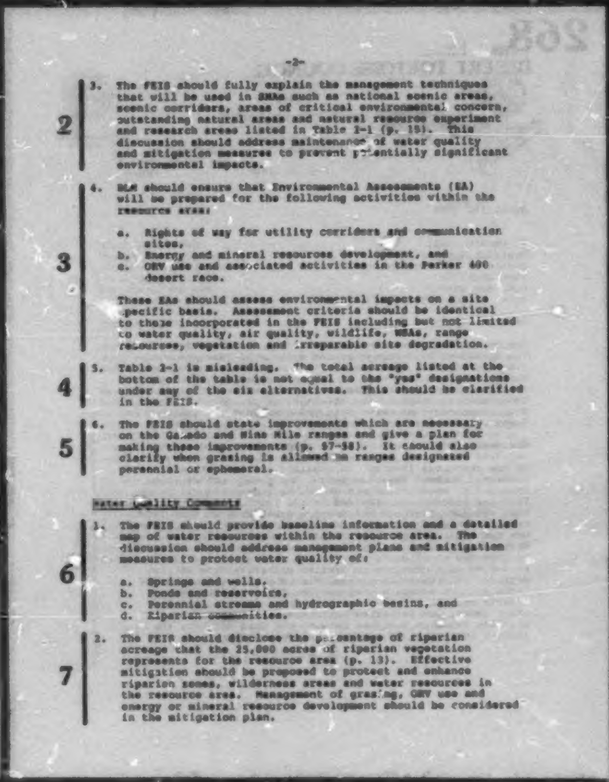
   b. Areas where ORV use is substantial within a WSA should also be included on the maps and in the disclosure of nonsuitable areas.

   c. The description of Alternatives C and D present arguments for suitable areas that are potentially manageable under BLM's authority. The FEIS should identify the criteria used to select suitable wilderness area in the Preferred Alternative (54,230 acres) versus Alternative C (73,045 acres), the Balanced Production Alternative, and Alternative D (144,935 acres), the Balanced Protection Alternative (p. 73).

1 2. BLM should disclose the criteria used to consider SMAs separate from WSAs when the two areas are contiguous or subsections of a larger area. Map 7 shows that the following Special Management Areas (SMA) and WSAs either border or overlap each other:

   a. Crossman Peak (WA-1 and 5-7B),
   b. Whipple Mountain (WA-3 and 5-10),
   c. The Mesa (WA-4) and Gibraltar Mountains (WA-5 and 5-12),
   d. [illegible] Canyon (WA-6), Planet Peak (WA-7) and Swansea (5-15A),
   e. Cactus Plain (WA-8, WA-8A, WA-8B, 5-14A/B and 5-17),
   f. Big Marias (WA-10 and 5-19),
   g. Trigo Mountains (5-23A and 5-23B), and
   h. Muggins Mountains (WA-13, WA-13A and 5-53A).

EPA recommends that BLM give every consideration to WSAs that border National Wildlife Refuges, National Wildlife Management Areas or other WSAs.



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2 3. The FEIS should fully explain the management techniques that will be used in SMAs such as national scenic areas, scenic corridors, areas of critical environmental concern, outstanding natural areas and natural resource experiment and research areas listed in Table 2-1 (p. 15). This discussion should address maintenance of water quality and mitigation measures to prevent potentially significant environmental impacts.

3 4. BLM should ensure that Environmental Assessments (EA) will be prepared for the following activities within the resource area:

   a. Rights of way for utility corridors and communication sites,
   b. Energy and mineral resources development, and
   c. ORV use and associated activities in the Parker 400 desert race.

These EAs should assess environmental impacts on a site specific basis. Assessment criteria should be identical to those incorporated in the FEIS including but not limited to water quality, air quality, wildlife, WSAs, range resources, vegetation and irreparable site degradation.

4 5. Table 2-1 is misleading. The total acreage listed at the bottom of the table is not equal to the "yes" designations under any of the six alternatives. This should be clarified in the FEIS.

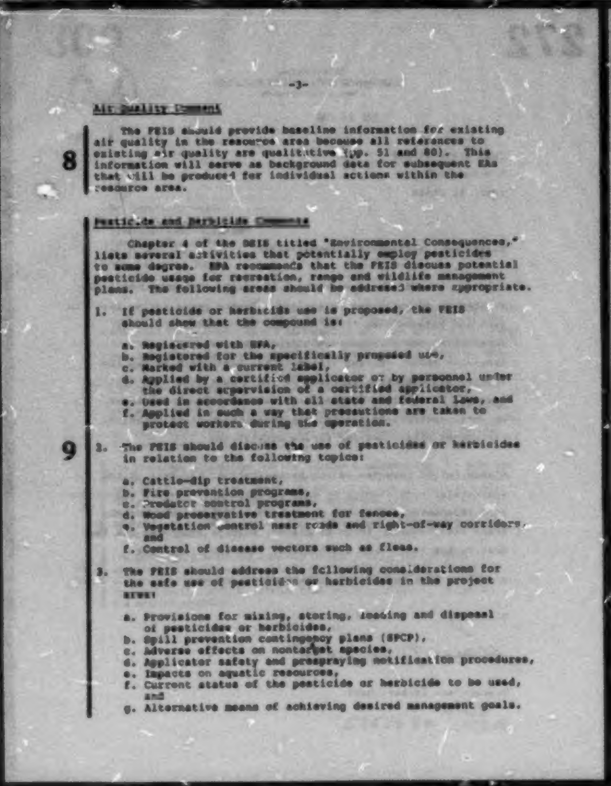
5 6. The FEIS should state improvements which are necessary on the [illegible] and Nine Mile ranges and give a plan for making these improvements (p. 97-98). It should also clarify when grazing is allowed on ranges designated perennial or ephemeral.

Water Quality Comments

6 1. The FEIS should provide baseline information and a detailed map of water resources within the resource area. The discussion should address management plans and mitigation measures to protect water quality of:

   a. Springs and wells,
   b. Ponds and reservoirs,
   c. Perennial streams and hydrographic basins, and
   d. Riparian communities.

7 2. The FEIS should disclose the percentage of riparian acreage that the 25,000 acres of riparian vegetation represents for the resource area (p. 13). Effective mitigation should be proposed to protect and enhance riparian zones, wilderness areas and water resources in the resource area. Management of grazing, ORV use and energy or mineral resource development should be considered in the mitigation plan.



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Air Quality Comment

8 The FEIS should provide baseline information for existing air quality in the resource area because all references to existing air quality are qualitative (pp. 51 and 80). This information will serve as background data for subsequent EAs that will be produced for individual actions within the resource area.

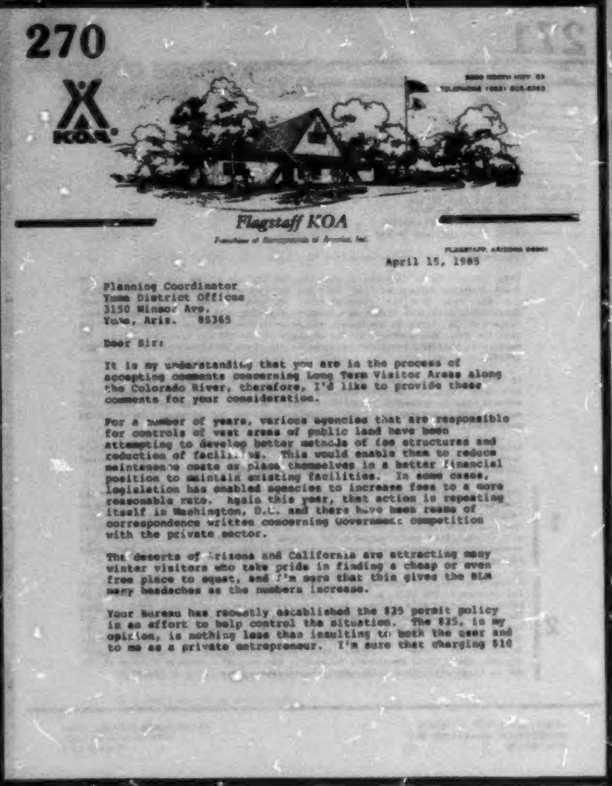
Pesticide and Herbicide Comments

Chapter 4 of the DEIS titled "Environmental Consequences," lists several activities that potentially employ pesticides to some degree. EPA recommends that the FEIS discuss potential pesticide usage for recreation, range and wildlife management plans. The following areas should be addressed where appropriate.

1. If pesticide or herbicide use is proposed, the FEIS should show that the compound is:
    a. Registered with EPA,
    b. Registered for the specifically proposed use,
    c. Marked with a current label,
    d. Applied by a certified applicator or by personnel under the direct supervision of a certified applicator,
    e. Used in accordance with all state and federal laws, and
    f. Applied in such a way that precautions are taken to protect workers during the operation.

9 2. The FEIS should discuss the use of pesticides or herbicides in relation to the following topics:
    a. Cattle-dip treatment,
    b. Fire prevention programs,
    c. Predator control programs,
    d. Wood preservative treatment for fences,
    e. Vegetation control near roads and right-of-way corridors, and
    f. Control of disease vectors such as fleas.

3. The FEIS should address the following considerations for the safe use of pesticides or herbicides in the project area:
    a. Provisions for mixing, storing, loading and disposal of pesticides or herbicides,
    b. Spill prevention contingency plans (SPCP),
    c. Adverse effects on nontarget species,
    d. Applicator safety and prespraying notification procedures,
    e. Impacts on aquatic resources,
    f. Current status of the pesticide or herbicide to be used, and
    g. Alternative means of achieving desired management goals.



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KOA

Flagstaff KOA

April 15, 1985

Planning Coordinator
Yuma District Offices
3150 Winsor Ave.
Yuma, Ariz. 85365

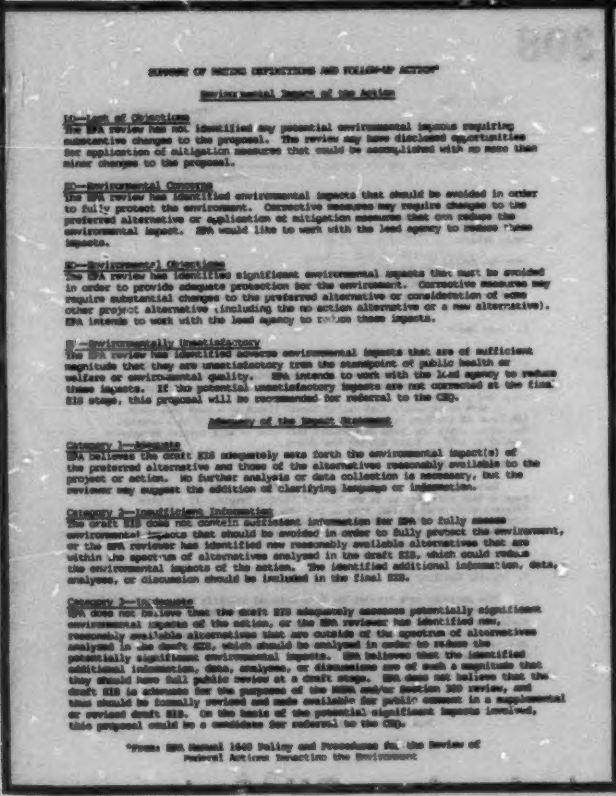
Dear Sir:

It is my understanding that you are in the process of accepting comments concerning Long Term Visitor Areas along the Colorado River, therefore, I'd like to provide these comments for your consideration.

For a number of years, various agencies that are responsible for controls of vast areas of public land have been attempting to develop better methods of fee structures and reduction of facilities. This would enable them to reduce maintenance costs or place themselves in a better financial position to maintain existing facilities. In some cases, legislation has enabled agencies to increase fees to a more reasonable rate. Again this year, that action is repeating itself in Washington, D.C. and there have been reams of correspondence written concerning Government competition with the private sector.

The deserts of Arizona and California are attracting many winter visitors who take pride in finding a cheap or even free place to squat, and I'm sure that this gives the BLM many headaches as the numbers increase.

Your Bureau has recently established the $25 permit policy in an effort to help control the situation. The $25, in my opinion, is nothing less than insulting to both the user and to me as a private entrepreneur. I'm sure that charging $10



SUMMARY OF RATING DEFINITIONS AND FOLLOW-UP ACTION*

Environmental Impact of the Action

LO--Lack of Objections
The EPA review has not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes to the proposal. The review may have disclosed opportunities for application of mitigation measures that could be accomplished with no more than minor changes to the proposal.

EC--Environmental Concerns
The EPA review has identified environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment. Corrective measures may require changes to the preferred alternative or application of mitigation measures that can reduce the environmental impact. EPA would like to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

EO--Environmental Objections
The EPA review has identified significant environmental impacts that must be avoided in order to provide adequate protection for the environment. Corrective measures may require substantial changes to the preferred alternative or consideration of some other project alternative (including the no action alternative or a new alternative). EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

EU--Environmentally Unsatisfactory
The EPA review has identified adverse environmental impacts that are of sufficient magnitude that they are unsatisfactory from the standpoint of public health or welfare or environmental quality. EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts. If the potential unsatisfactory impacts are not corrected at the final EIS stage, this proposal will be recommended for referral to the CEQ.

Adequacy of the Impact Statement

Category 1--Adequate
EPA believes the draft EIS adequately sets forth the environmental impact(s) of the preferred alternative and those of the alternatives reasonably available to the project or action. No further analysis or data collection is necessary, but the reviewer may suggest the addition of clarifying language or information.

Category 2--Insufficient Information
The draft EIS does not contain sufficient information for EPA to fully assess environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment, or the EPA reviewer has identified new reasonably available alternatives that are within the spectrum of alternatives analysed in the draft EIS, which could reduce the environmental impacts of the action. The identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussion should be included in the final EIS.

Category 3--Inadequate
EPA does not believe that the draft EIS adequately assesses potentially significant environmental impacts of the action, or the EPA reviewer has identified new, reasonably available alternatives that are outside of the spectrum of alternatives analysed in the draft EIS, which should be analysed in order to reduce the potentially significant environmental impacts. EPA believes that the identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussions are of such a magnitude that they should have full public review at a draft stage. EPA does not believe that the draft EIS is adequate for the purposes of the NEPA and/or Section 309 review, and thus should be formally revised and made available for public comment in a supplemental or revised draft EIS. On the basis of the potential significant impacts involved, this proposal could be a candidate for referral to the CEQ.

*From: EPA Manual 1640 Policy and Procedures for the Review of Federal Actions Impacting the Environment

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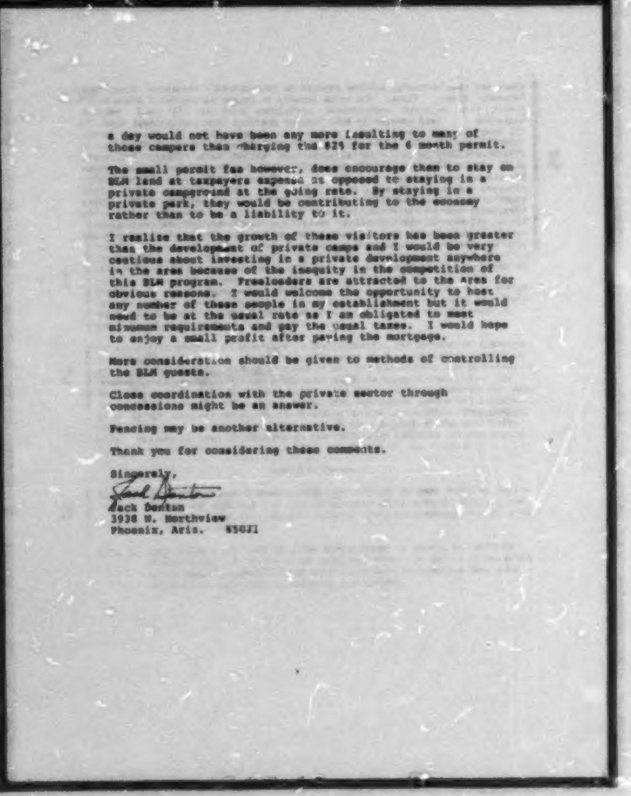

a day would not have been any more insulting to many of those campers than charging the $25 for the 6 month permit.

The small permit fee however, does encourage them to stay on BLM land at taxpayers expense as opposed to staying in a private campground at the going rate. By staying in a private park, they would be contributing to the economy rather than to be a liability to it.

I realize that the growth of these visitors has been greater than the development of private camps and I would be very cautious about investing in a private development anywhere in the area because of the inequity in the competition of this BLM program. Freeloaders are attracted to the area for obvious reasons. I would welcome the opportunity to host any number of these people in my establishment but it would need to be at the usual rate as I am obligated to meet minimum requirements and pay the usual taxes. I would hope to enjoy a small profit after paying the mortgage.

More consideration should be given to methods of controlling the BLM guests.

Close coordination with the private sector through concessions might be an answer.

Fencing may be another alternative.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

Jack Denton
Jack Denton
3938 W. Northview
Phoenix, Ariz. 85021

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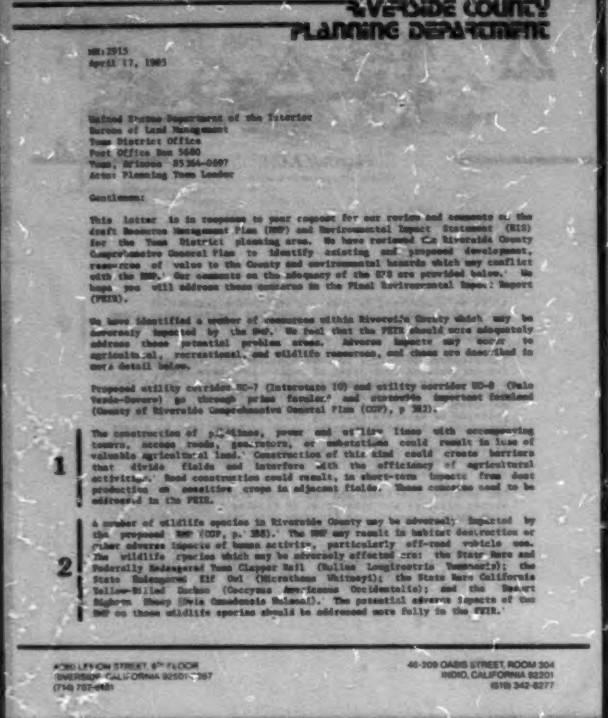

RIVERSIDE COUNTY
PLANNING DEPARTMENT

MR:2915
April 17, 1985

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
Post Office Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697
Attn: Planning Team Leader

Gentlemen:

This letter is in response to your request for our review and comments on the draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Yuma District planning area. We have reviewed the Riverside County Comprehensive General Plan to identify existing and proposed development, resources of value to the County and environmental hazards which may conflict with the RMP. Our comments on the adequacy of the EIS are provided below. We hope you will address these concerns in the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR).

We have identified a number of resources within Riverside County which may be adversely impacted by the RMP. We feel that the FEIR should more adequately address these potential problem areas. Adverse impacts may occur to agricultural, recreational, and wildlife resources, and these are described in more detail below.

Proposed utility corridor UC-7 (Interstate 10) and utility corridor UC-8 (Palo Verde-Devers) go through prime farmland and statewide important farmland (County of Riverside Comprehensive General Plan (CGP), p 382).

1 The construction of pipelines, power and utility lines with accompanying towers, access roads, generators, or substations could result in loss of valuable agricultural land. Construction of this kind could create barriers that divide fields and interfere with the efficiency of agricultural activities. Road construction could result, in short-term impacts from dust production on sensitive crops in adjacent fields. These concerns need to be addressed in the FEIR.

2 A number of wildlife species in Riverside County may be adversely impacted by the proposed RMP (CGP, p. 388). The RMP may result in habitat destruction or other adverse impacts of human activity, particularly off-road vehicle use. The wildlife species which may be adversely affected are: the State Rare and Federally Endangered Yuma Clapper Rail (Rallus Longirostris Yumanensis); the State Endangered Elf Owl (Micrathene Whitneyi); the State Rare California Yellow-Billed Cuckoo (Coccyzus Americanus Occidentalis); and the Desert Bighorn Sheep (Ovis Canadensis Nelsoni). The potential adverse impacts of the RMP on these wildlife species should be addressed more fully in the FEIR.

4080 LEMON STREET, 9TH FLOOR
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92501-3657
(714) 787-6181

46-209 OASIS STREET, ROOM 304
INDIO, CALIFORNIA 92201
(619) 342-8277

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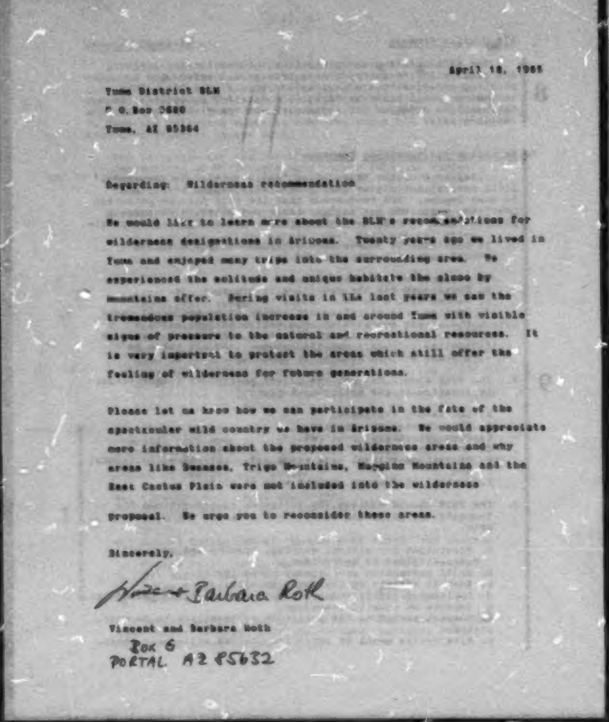


April 18, 1985

Yuma District BLM
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, AZ 85364

Regarding: Wilderness recommendation

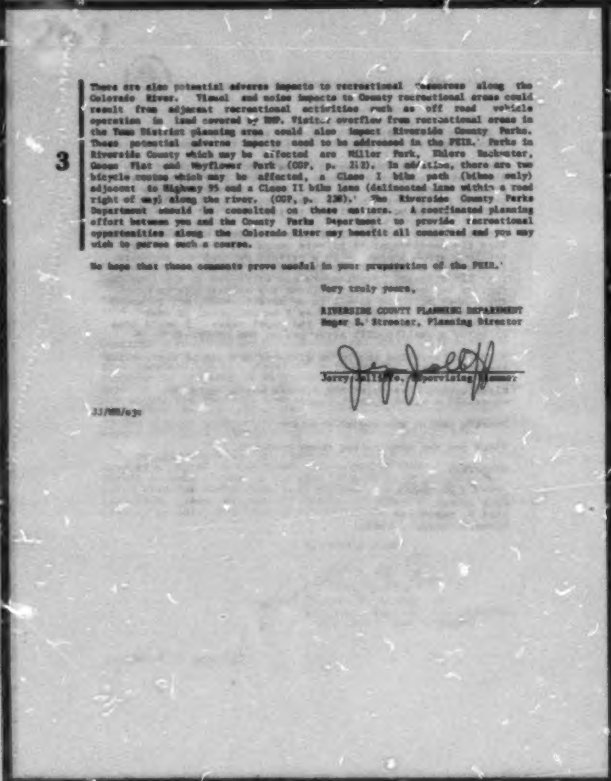
We would like to learn more about the BLM's recommendations for wilderness designations in Arizona. Twenty years ago we lived in Yuma and enjoyed many trips into the surrounding area. We experienced the solitude and unique habitats the close by mountains offer. During visits in the last years we saw the tremendous population increase in and around Yuma with visible signs of pressure to the natural and recreational resources. It is very important to protect the areas which still offer the feeling of wilderness for future generations.

Please let us know how we can participate in the fate of the spectacular wild country we have in Arizona. We would appreciate more information about the proposed wilderness areas and why areas like Swansea, Trigo Mountains, Muggins Mountains and the East Cactus Plain were not included into the wilderness proposal. We urge you to reconsider these areas.

Sincerely,

Vincent + Barbara Roth

Vincent and Barbara Roth
Box 6
PORTAL AZ 85632



3 There are also potential adverse impacts to recreational resources along the Colorado River. Visual and noise impacts to County recreational areas could result from adjacent recreational activities such as off road vehicle operation in land covered by RMP. Visitor overflow from recreational areas in the Yuma District planning area could also impact Riverside County Parks. These potential adverse impacts need to be addressed in the FEIR. Parks in Riverside County which may be affected are Miller Park, Ehlers Backwater, Goose Flat and Mayflower Park (CGP, p. 212). In addition, there are two bicycle routes which may be affected, a Class I bike path (bikes only) adjacent to Highway 95 and a Class II bike lane (delineated lane within a road right of way) along the river. (CGP, p. 230). The Riverside County Parks Department should be consulted on these matters. A coordinated planning effort between you and the County Parks Department to provide recreational opportunities along the Colorado River may benefit all concerned and you may wish to pursue such a course.

We hope that these comments prove useful in your preparation of the FEIR.

Very truly yours,

RIVERSIDE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
Roger S. Streeter, Planning Director

Jerry Jolliffe

Jerry Jolliffe, Supervising Planner

JJ/MR/ojc

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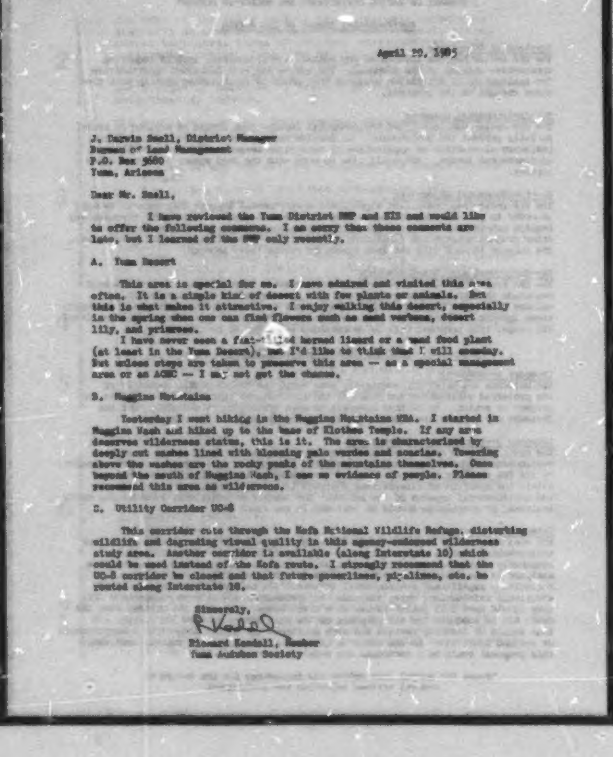


April 20, 1985

J. Darwin Snell, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona

Dear Mr. Snell,

I have reviewed the Yuma District RMP and EIS and would like to offer the following comments. I am sorry that these comments are late, but I learned of the RMP only recently.

A. Yuma Desert

This area is special for me. I have admired and visited this area often. It is a simple kind of desert with few plants or animals. But this is what makes it attractive. I enjoy walking this desert, especially in the spring when one can find flowers such as sand verbena, desert lily, and primrose.

I have never seen a flat-tailed horned lizard or a sand food plant (at least in the Yuma Desert), but I'd like to think that I will someday. But unless steps are taken to preserve this area — as a special management area or an ACEC — I may not get the chance.

B. Muggins Mountains

Yesterday I went hiking in the Muggins Mountains WSA. I started in Muggins Wash and hiked up to the base of Klothos Temple. If any area deserves wilderness status, this is it. The area is characterized by deeply cut washes lined with blooming palo verdes and acacias. Towering above the washes are the rocky peaks of the mountains themselves. Once beyond the mouth of Muggins Wash, I saw no evidence of people. Please recommend this area as wilderness.

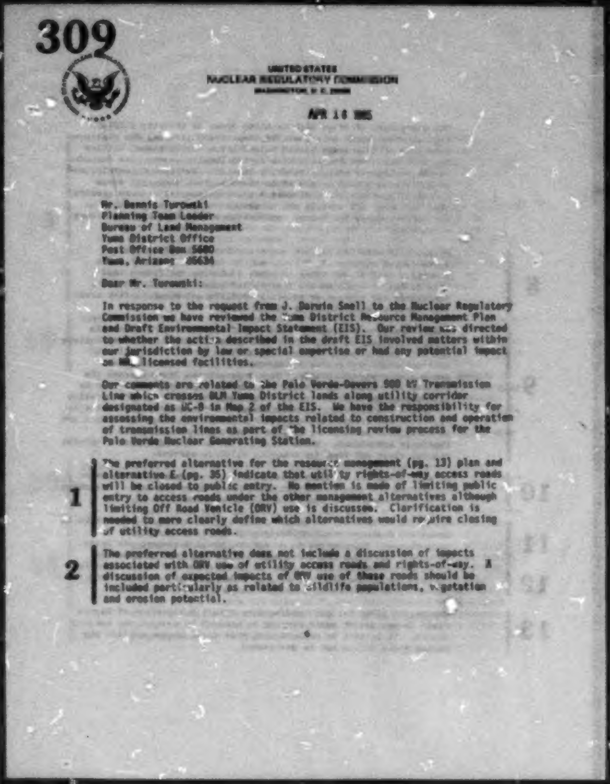
C. Utility Corridor UC-8

This corridor cuts through the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, disturbing wildlife and degrading visual quality in this agency-endorsed wilderness study area. Another corridor is available (along Interstate 10) which could be used instead of the Kofa route. I strongly recommend that the UC-8 corridor be closed and that future powerlines, pipelines, etc. be routed along Interstate 10.

Sincerely,

RKendall

Richard Kendall, Member
Yuma Audubon Society



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UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

APR 16 1985

Mr. Dennis Turowski
Planning Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
Post Office Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85634

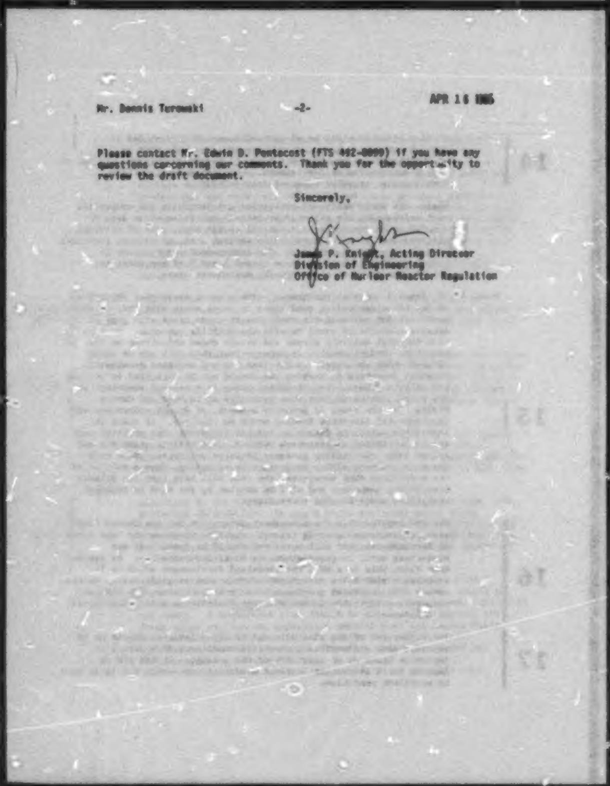
Dear Mr. Turowski:

In response to the request from J. Darwin Snell to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission we have reviewed the Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Our review was directed to whether the action described in the draft EIS involved matters within our jurisdiction by law or special expertise or had any potential impact on NRC licensed facilities.

Our comments are related to the Palo Verde-Devers 500 kV Transmission Line which crosses BLM Yuma District lands along utility corridor designated as UC-8 in Map 2 of the EIS. We have the responsibility for assessing the environmental impacts related to construction and operation of transmission lines as part of the licensing review process for the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station.

1 The preferred alternative for the resource management (pg. 13) plan and alternative E (pg. 35) indicate that utility rights-of-way access roads will be closed to public entry. No mention is made of limiting public entry to access roads under the other management alternatives although limiting Off Road Vehicle (ORV) use is discussed. Clarification is needed to more clearly define which alternatives would require closing of utility access roads.

2 The preferred alternative does not include a discussion of impacts associated with ORV use of utility access roads and rights-of-way. A discussion of expected impacts of ORV use of these roads should be included particularly as related to wildlife populations, vegetation and erosion potential.

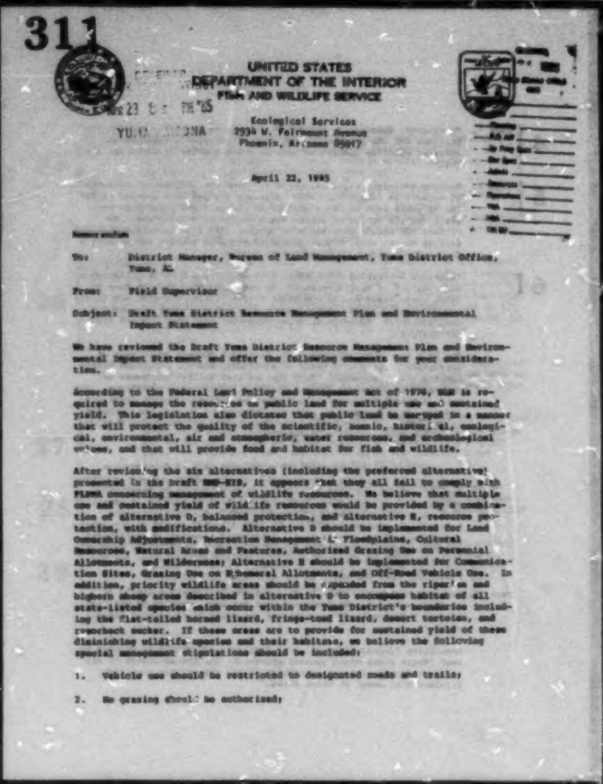


Mr. Dennis Turowski -2- APR 16 1985

Please contact Mr. Edwin D. Pentecost (FTS 492-8099) if you have any questions concerning our comments. Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft document.

Sincerely,

James P. Knight, Acting Director
Division of Engineering
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation



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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ecological Services
2934 W. Fairmount Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85017

APR 23 PM '85
YUMA, ARIZONA

April 22, 1985

Memorandum

To: District Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District Office, Yuma, AZ

From: Field Supervisor

Subject: Draft Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement

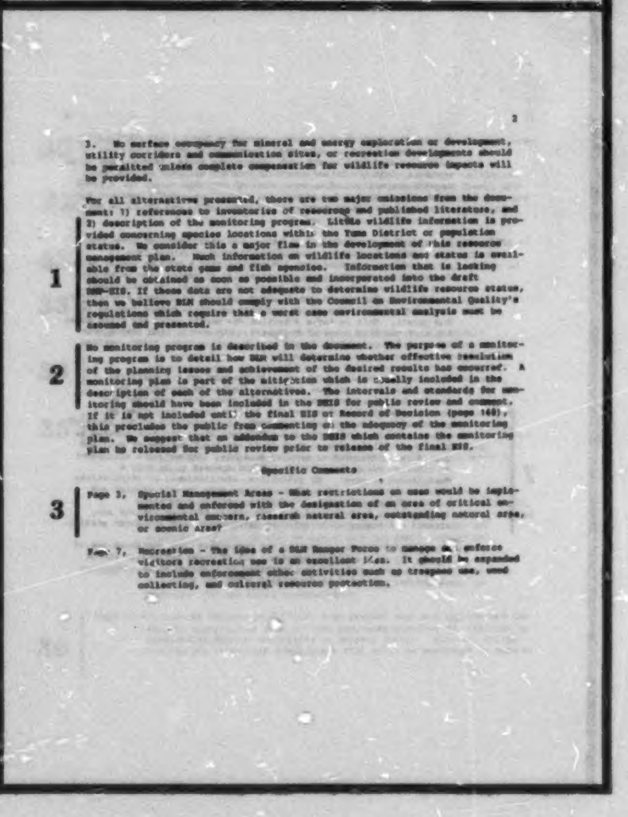
We have reviewed the Draft Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement and offer the following comments for your consideration.

According to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, BLM is required to manage the resources on public land for multiple use and sustained yield. This legislation also dictates that public land be managed in a manner that will protect the quality of the scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resources, and archeological values, and that will provide food and habitat for fish and wildlife.

After reviewing the six alternatives (including the preferred alternative) presented in the Draft RMP-EIS, it appears that they all fail to comply with FLPMA concerning management of wildlife resources. We believe that multiple use and sustained yield of wildlife resources would be provided by a combination of alternative D, balanced protection, and alternative E, resource protection, with modifications. Alternative D should be implemented for Land Ownership Adjustments, Recreation Management in Floodplains, Cultural Resources, Natural Areas and Features, Authorized Grazing Use on Perennial Allotments, and Wilderness; Alternative E should be implemented for Communication Sites, Grazing Use on Ephemeral Allotments, and Off-Road Vehicle Use. In addition, priority wildlife areas should be expanded from the riparian and bighorn sheep areas described in alternative D to encompass habitat of all state-listed species which occur within the Yuma District's boundaries including the flat-tailed horned lizard, fringe-toed lizard, desert tortoise, and razorback sucker. If these areas are to provide for sustained yield of these diminishing wildlife species and their habitats, we believe the following special management stipulations should be included:

1. Vehicle use should be restricted to designated roads and trails;

2. No grazing should be authorized;



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3. No surface occupancy for mineral and energy exploration or development, utility corridors and communication sites, or recreation developments should be permitted unless complete compensation for wildlife resource impacts will be provided.

For all alternatives presented, there are two major omissions from the document: 1) references to inventories of resources and published literature, and

1 2) description of the monitoring program. Little wildlife information is provided concerning species locations within the Yuma District or population status. We consider this a major flaw in the development of this resource management plan. Much information on wildlife locations and status is available from the state game and fish agencies. Information that is lacking should be obtained as soon as possible and incorporated into the draft RMP-EIS. If these data are not adequate to determine wildlife resource status, then we believe BLM should comply with the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations which require that a worst case environmental analysis must be assumed and presented.

2 No monitoring program is described in the document. The purpose of a monitoring program is to detail how BLM will determine whether effective resolution of the planning issues and achievement of the desired results has occurred. A monitoring plan is part of the mitigation which is usually included in the description of each of the alternatives. The intervals and standards for monitoring should have been included in the DEIS for public review and comment. If it is not included until the final EIS or Record of Decision (page 140), this precludes the public from commenting on the adequacy of the monitoring plan. We suggest that an addendum to the DEIS which contains the monitoring plan be released for public review prior to release of the final EIS.

Specific Comments

3 Page 3. Special Management Areas - What restrictions on uses would be implemented and enforced with the designation of an area of critical environmental concern, research natural area, outstanding natural area, or scenic area?

Page 7. Recreation - The idea of a BLM Ranger Force to manage and enforce visitors recreation use is an excellent idea. It should be expanded to include enforcement other activities such as trespass use, wood collecting, and cultural resource protection.

4 Page 9. Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species Habitat - Federal law provides for the conservation of federally-listed threatened and endangered wildlife species as well as those species proposed for listing.

5 Page 9. Grazing Administration, paragraph 1 - From the information presented it appears as though BLM cannot make any changes in a grazing permit for 10 years even if range conditions change. The permittee, however, has the option of requesting a change in grazing use. We believe BLM should have the same option. If range condition or trend decline during this 10-year period, BLM should require and enforce a downward adjustment in livestock allocation.

6 Rangeland Monitoring - How often will monitoring data be collected on each pasture of each allotment? We recommend that this be done at least three times during the year: first, before livestock are turned out to graze; second, approximately 1/3 to 1/2 through the pasture's use; and third, immediately after livestock have been removed from the pasture.

The DEIS says that adjustments in livestock numbers would only be authorized after 3 to 5 years of monitoring and all rangeland developments are constructed. This implies that neither increases nor decreases in livestock numbers can occur until these conditions are met. Although the Lower Gila Monitoring Plan may clarify these procedures, this document or relevant portions of it were not included in the DEIS. We suggest that the phrase "and all rangeland developments are constructed" be deleted.

The statement in the DEIS should be changed to read "In addition, increases in livestock numbers would only be authorized when monitoring..." Monitoring should include ephemeral forage on perennial-ephemeral allotments since ephemeral forage when present is generally more palatable than perennial shrubs. AMP's for all allotments partially or completely within the Yuma District should be developed and circulated for review to all interested agencies, organizations and individuals. Monitoring for PE allotments should study seasonal livestock use, forage utilization, trend and precipitation for both perennial and annual plants.

Page 11. Trespass Abatement - This is an excellent policy which should be strongly enforced. We recommend that the last sentence be modified to read " Any cases of unauthorized use would be terminated immediately."

Recreation Program, General - The last sentence should be changed to read "These plans would include provisions for the avoidance of any resource degradation and correction of any visitor use management problems that occur at these sites."

Page 11, Floodplains Protection Program - Executive Order 11990 (wetlands protection) should be addressed. Consultation and coordination should be conducted by BLM with appropriate state, federal, and local agencies, individuals and organizations for all land actions which require preparation of an environmental document except for actions which are covered under categorical exclusions. BLM's apparent commitment to floodplain management is commendable and should be strictly enforced.

Page 12, Energy and Minerals Program - Before any exploration or development of leasable, locatable, or salable minerals on public land is permitted, we recommend that BLM require that a bond be posted as an incentive for the developer to use mining or exploration techniques that will result in the least amount of damage to the environment. In addition, BLM should inform all developers of salable minerals of necessary permits they may be required to obtain before issuing the BLM permit. This includes a Section 404 permit under the Clean Water Act from the Army Corps of Engineers. BLM should also insure that these mining operations comply with Executive Order 11990, wetland protection.

7 Pages 13-14, Issue 1: Wildlife Habitat - If the goal of the preferred alternative is to balance competing demands by providing for development of needed resources while protecting important and sensitive environmental values, we believe this alternative as presented would not attain this goal. Approximately 25,000 acres of riparian habitat along the lower Colorado River would be managed as priority wildlife areas. This is an excellent management goal and should be implemented as soon as possible. However, the management of riparian areas for wildlife habitat appears to be only a designation on paper. No guidelines, restrictions, or stipulations are mentioned concerning other resource uses in this crucial and rapidly disappearing wildlife habitat such as recreation developments, long-term visitor use areas, off-road vehicle use, mineral and energy exploration or development, and livestock grazing.

These activities are generally not compatible with continued use of an area by most wildlife species. All of these activities except vehicular access should be prohibited in riparian areas. Vehicles should be restricted to designated roads and ways.

The management of seven bighorn sheep areas as priority wildlife habitat areas again is a positive step toward insuring the continued existence of this state-listed animal. Two restrictions, utility corridor width and road closures during lambing season, are included in the management of this wildlife habitat. Additional restrictions on activities should be placed on these bighorn sheep use areas including prohibition of livestock grazing especially sheep grazing, restriction of all vehicle use to designated roads and trails, no surface occupancy for energy exploration or development, and mineral withdrawal.

8 No priority wildlife habitat areas are designated for other state-listed endangered, threatened, or rare wildlife or plant species. Habitat for these species, including the fringe-toed lizard, desert tortoise and flat-tailed horned lizard, should be designated and managed as priority wildlife and plant habitat areas with similar restrictions as listed above.

9 Please define the phrase "existing roads and trails." Does this designation include only those roads present before 1980? We believe BLM will find it more difficult to enforce an ORV designation of existing roads and trails throughout the district rather than designated roads and trails. Once a person has driven across the desert, his tracks are visible for months, sometimes years, and he has created an existing trail. Continued violation of this existing roads and trails policy without adequate enforcement will eventually result in the fragmentation of wildlife habitat. Any wash should not be considered an existing road or trail unless it is bladed or regularly maintained. These xeroriparian areas in the desert provide crucial cover and food for numerous wildlife species.

10 We were unable to find any consideration or recommended management guidelines for aquatic habitat improvement or maintenance. A section on aquatic habitat management should be included.

11 Pages 14-15, Issue 2, Special Management Areas - Only two of 18 Unique Natural
Areas and Features would be designated under the preferred
alternative. Alternative A, no action, would designate six areas.
We wonder why these six areas were not carried through from the
Management Framework Plan. Many of these areas are recommended for
12 designation by the State of Arizona under the Natural Areas Program.
Aubrey Hills has already been designated under this program.

13 The reason given for not recommending formal designation of Cactus Plain is because it would already be managed to protect its natural values. If it will be managed with this goal, please explain why Cactus Plain should not be designated.

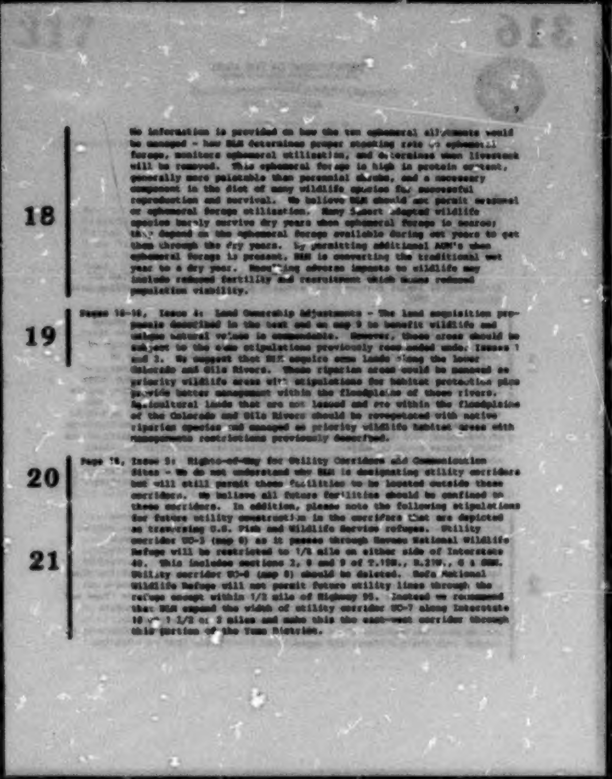
14 It is unclear what degree of protection would be provided if special management areas are designated. We could find no restrictions on recreation development, livestock grazing, mineral or energy exploration or development, vehicular access, utility construction, or other types of construction.

Again, the above mentioned activities are generally not compatible with maintaining the cultural or natural qualities of an area so special as to designate it a natural scenic area, area of critical environmental concern, outstanding natural area, or natural resources experiment and research area. Our recommended restrictions in priority wildlife habitat areas (pages 1 and 2 of our comments) should also apply to these special management areas.

15 Pages 14-16, Issue 3, Grazing Management - The grazing management objectives of improving ecological conditions in those areas with fair or poor condition and maintain the condition of those areas with good or excellent condition would benefit the wildlife resource. We hope that BLM will actively pursue and attain these objectives as soon as possible. Unfortunately, it appears that this will not be accomplished under the current authorized use and proposed management. Seasonal increases in grazing use should not be permitted to utilize big galleta grass. This perennial grass is a primary component in the stabilization of this dune community at La Posa and Cactus Plains. If the range is properly managed, we do not understand why supplemental livestock feeding would be required. If there is inadequate palatable forage to sustain livestock, the stocking rate should be reduced or livestock removed. Big galleta grass did not evolve under the grazing pressure of large ungulates. Once this grass is removed, either by grazing or trampling, from a portion of the stabilized dune ecosystem, the soil will have lost its primary stabilizing component and will be carried by the wind to adjacent stabilized areas burying these plants.

16 The RMP implies that the management objectives for the Cactus Plain area are increased grazing through rangeland developments (the types of developments that will permitted should be specified) and wilderness until Congress makes its final determination. We assume that since this is a WSA, the rangeland development would be in accordance with BLM's management of this area as wilderness. We also assume that increased grazing will only be permitted when BLM can demonstrate that this action will not diminishthe wilderness values of this area.

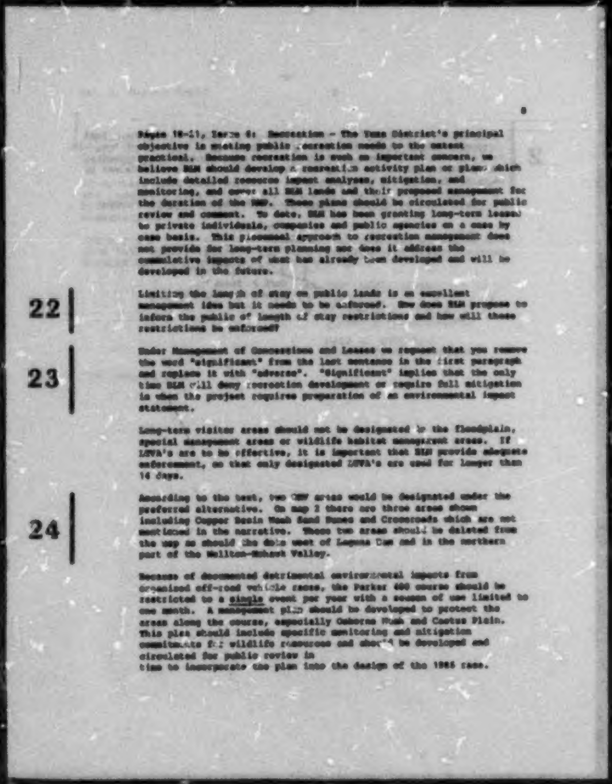
17 The objectives of the Nine-Mile and [illegible] allotments should be to maintain good and excellent rangeland conditions with stable or improving trend on at least 67% of the acreage. At 65% BLM is looking for a 2% decline in range condition; currently 67% is in good to excellent condition.



18 No information is provided on how the two ephemeral allotments would be managed - how BLM determines proper stocking rate on ephemeral forage, monitors ephemeral utilization, and determines when livestock will be removed. This ephemeral forage is high in protein content, generally more palatable than perennial shrubs, and a necessary component in the diet of many wildlife species for successful reproduction and survival. We believe BLM should not permit seasonal or ephemeral forage utilization. Many desert adapted wildlife species barely survive dry years when ephemeral forage is scarce; they depend on the ephemeral forage available during wet years to get them through the dry years. By permitting additional AUM's when ephemeral forage is present, BLM is converting the traditional wet year to a dry year. Resulting adverse impacts to wildlife may include reduced fertility and recruitment which cause reduced population viability.

19 Pages 15-16, Issue 4: Land Ownership Adjustments - The land acquisition proposals described in the text and on map 9 to benefit wildlife and unique natural values is commendable. However, these areas should be subject to the same stipulations previously recommended under Issues 1 and 2. We suggest that BLM acquire some lands along the lower Colorado and Gila Rivers. These riparian areas could be managed as priority wildlife areas with stipulations for habitat protection plus provide better management within the floodplains of these rivers. Agricultural lands that are not leased and are within the floodplains of the Colorado and Gila Rivers should be revegetated with native riparian species and managed as priority wildlife habitat areas with management restrictions previously described.

20 Page 16, Issue 5: Rights-of-Way for Utility Corridors and Communication Sites - We do not understand why BLM is designating utility corridors but will still permit these facilities to be located outside these corridors. We believe all future facilities should be confined to these corridors. In addition, please note the following stipulations for future utility construction in the corridors that are depicted as traversing U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refuges. Utility
21 corridor UC-3 (map 8) as it passes through Havasu National Wildlife Refuge will be restricted to 1/4 mile on either side of Interstate 40. This includes sections 2, 8 and 9 of T.15N., R.21W., G & SRM. Utility corridor UC-6 (map 8) should be deleted. Kofa National Wildlife Refuge will not permit future utility lines through the refuge except within 1/2 mile of Highway 95. Instead we recommend that BLM expand the width of utility corridor UC-7 along Interstate 10 to 1 1/2 or 2 miles and make this the east-west corridor through this portion of the Yuma District.



Pages 18-21, Issue 6: Recreation - The Yuma District's principal objective is meeting public recreation needs to the extent practical. Because recreation is such an important concern, we believe BLM should develop a recreation activity plan or plans which include detailed resource impact analyses, mitigation, and monitoring, and cover all BLM lands and their proposed management for the duration of the RMP. These plans should be circulated for public review and comment. To date, BLM has been granting long-term leases to private individuals, companies and public agencies on a case by case basis. This piecemeal approach to recreation management does not provide for long-term planning nor does it address the cumulative impacts of what has already been developed and will be developed in the future.

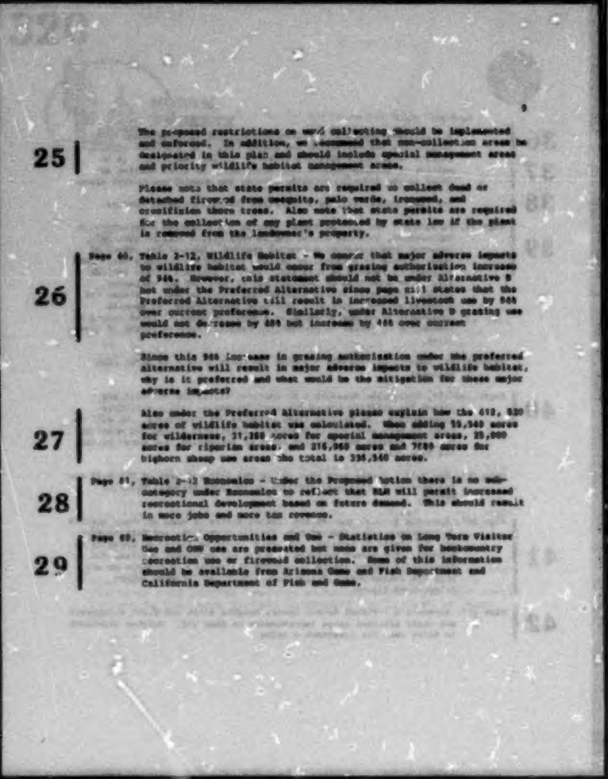
22 Limiting the length of stay on public lands is an excellent management idea but it needs to be enforced. How does BLM propose to inform the public of length of stay restrictions and how will these restrictions be enforced?

23 Under Management of Concessions and Leases we request that you remove the word "significant" from the last sentence in the first paragraph and replace it with "adverse". "Significant" implies that the only time BLM will deny recreation development or require full mitigation is when the project requires preparation of an environmental impact statement.

Long-term visitor areas should not be designated in the floodplain, special management areas or wildlife habitat management areas. If LTVA's are to be effective, it is important that BLM provide adequate enforcement, so that only designated LTVA's are used for longer than 14 days.

24 According to the text, two ORV areas would be designated under the preferred alternative. On map 2 there are three areas shown including Copper Basin Wash Sand Dunes and Crossroads which are not mentioned in the narrative. These two areas should be deleted from the map as should the dots west of Laguna Dam and in the northern part of the Wellton-Mohawk Valley.

Because of documented detrimental environmental impacts from organized off-road vehicle races, the Parker 400 course should be restricted to a single event per year with a season of use limited to one month. A management plan should be developed to protect the areas along the course, especially Osborne Wash and Cactus Plain. This plan should include specific monitoring and mitigation commitments for wildlife resources and should be developed and circulated for public review in time to incorporate the plan into the design of the 1986 race.



25 The proposed restrictions on wood collecting should be implemented and enforced. In addition, we recommend that non-collection areas be designated in this plan and should include special management areas and priority wildlife habitat management areas.

Please note that state permits are required to collect dead or detached firewood from mesquite, palo verde, ironwood, and crucifixion thorn trees. Also note that state permits are required for the collection of any plant protected by state law if the plant is removed from the landowner's property.

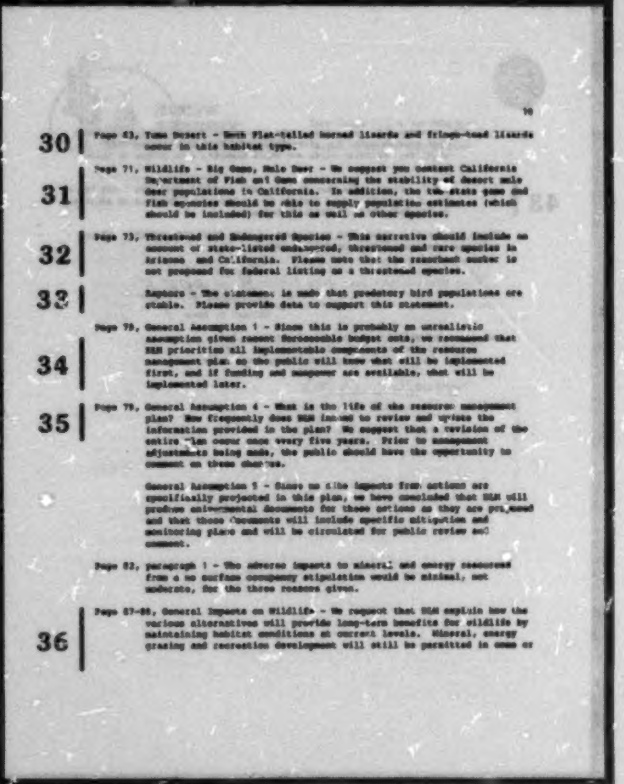
26 Page 60, Table 2-12, Wildlife Habitat - We concur that major adverse impacts to wildlife habitat would occur from grazing authorization increases of 94%. However, this statement should not be under Alternative B but under the Preferred Alternative since page xiii states that the Preferred Alternative will result in increased livestock use by 94% over current preference. Similarly, under Alternative B grazing use would not decrease by 48% but increase by 48% over current preference.

Since this 94% increase in grazing authorization under the preferred alternative will result in major adverse impacts to wildlife habitat, why is it preferred and what would be the mitigation for these major adverse impacts?

27 Also under the Preferred Alternative please explain how the 412,520 acres of wildlife habitat was calculated. When adding 55,340 acres for wilderness, 31,380 acres for special management areas, 25,000 acres for riparian areas, and 216,960 acres and 7280 acres for bighorn sheep use areas the total is 335,340 acres.

28 Page 61, Table 2-12 Economics - Under the Proposed Action there is no subcategory under Economics to reflect that BLM will permit increased recreational development based on future demand. This should result in more jobs and more tax revenue.

29 Page 68, Recreation Opportunities and Use - Statistics on Long Term Visitor Use and ORV use are presented but none are given for backcountry recreation use or firewood collection. Some of this information should be available from Arizona Game and Fish Department and California Department of Fish and Game.



30 Page 63, Yuma Desert - Both Flat-tailed horned lizards and fringe-toed lizards occur in this habitat type.

31 Page 71, Wildlife - Big Game, Mule Deer - We suggest you contact California Department of Fish and Game concerning the stability of desert mule deer populations in California. In addition, the two state game and fish agencies should be able to supply population estimates (which should be included) for this as well as other species.

32 Page 73, Threatened and Endangered Species - This narrative should include an account of state-listed endangered, threatened and rare species in Arizona and California. Please note that the razorback sucker is not proposed for federal listing as a threatened species.

33 Raptors - The statement is made that predatory bird populations are stable. Please provide data to support this statement.

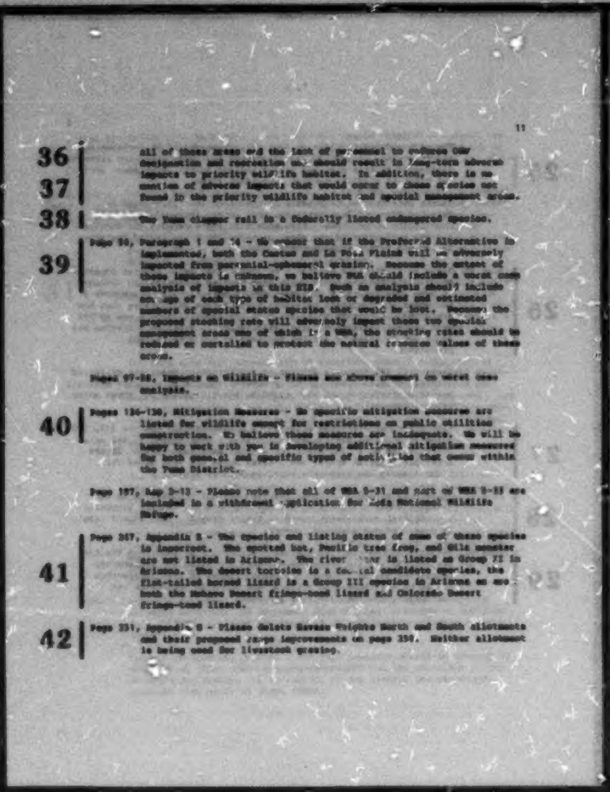
34 Page 79, General Assumption 1 - Since this is probably an unrealistic assumption given recent foreseeable budget cuts, we recommend that BLM prioritize all implementable components of the resource management plan so the public will know what will be implemented first, and if funding and manpower are available, what will be implemented later.

35 Page 79, General Assumption 4 - What is the life of the resource management plan? How frequently does BLM intend to review and update the information provided in the plan? We suggest that a revision of the entire plan occur once every five years. Prior to management adjustments being made, the public should have the opportunity to comment on these changes.

General Assumption 5 - Since no site impacts from actions are specifically projected in this plan, we have concluded that BLM will produce environmental documents for these actions as they are proposed and that these documents will include specific mitigation and monitoring plans and will be circulated for public review and comment.

Page 82, paragraph 1 - The adverse impacts to mineral and energy resources from a no surface occupancy stipulation would be minimal, not moderate, for the three reasons given.

36 Page 87-88, General Impacts on Wildlife - We request that BLM explain how the various alternatives will provide long-term benefits for wildlife by maintaining habitat conditions at current levels. Mineral, energy grazing and recreation development will still be permitted in some or



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36 37 all of these areas and the lack of personnel to enforce ORV designation and recreation use should result in long-term adverse impacts to priority wildlife habitat. In addition, there is no mention of adverse impacts that would occur to those species not found in the priority wildlife habitat and special management areas.

38 The Yuma clapper rail is a federally listed endangered species.

39 Page 90, Paragraph 1 and 24 - We concur that if the Preferred Alternative is implemented, both the Cactus and La Posa Plains will be adversely impacted from perennial-ephemeral grazing. Because the extent of these impacts is unknown, we believe BLM should include a worst case analysis of impacts in this EIS. Such an analysis should include acreage of each type of habitat lost or degraded and estimated numbers of special status species that would be lost. Because the proposed stocking rate will adversely impact these two special management areas one of which is a WHA, the stocking rates should be reduced or curtailed to protect the natural resource values of these areas.

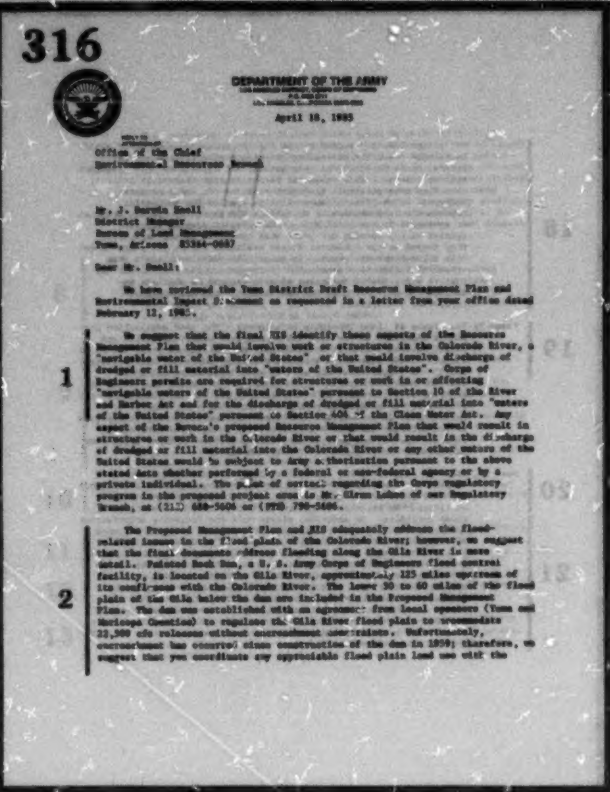
Pages 97-98, Impacts on Wildlife - Please see above comment on worst case analysis.

40 Pages 126-130, Mitigation Measures - No specific mitigation measures are listed for wildlife except for restrictions on public utilities construction. We believe these measures are inadequate. We will be happy to work with you in developing additional mitigation measures for both general and specific types of activities that occur within the Yuma District.

Page 197, Map 2-13 - Please note that all of WHA 2-21 and part of WHA 2-22 are included in a withdrawal application for Kofa National Wildlife Refuge.

41 Page 247, Appendix E - The species and listing status of some of these species is incorrect. The spotted bat, Pacific tree frog, and Gila monster are not listed in Arizona. The river otter is listed as Group II in Arizona. The desert tortoise is a federal candidate species, the flat-tailed horned lizard is a Group III species in Arizona as are both the Mohave Desert fringe-toed lizard and Colorado Desert fringe-toed lizard.

42 Page 251, Appendix G - Please delete Havasu Heights North and South allotments and their proposed range improvements on page 250. Neither allotment is being used for livestock grazing.



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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
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April 18, 1985

Office of the Chief
Environmental Resources Branch

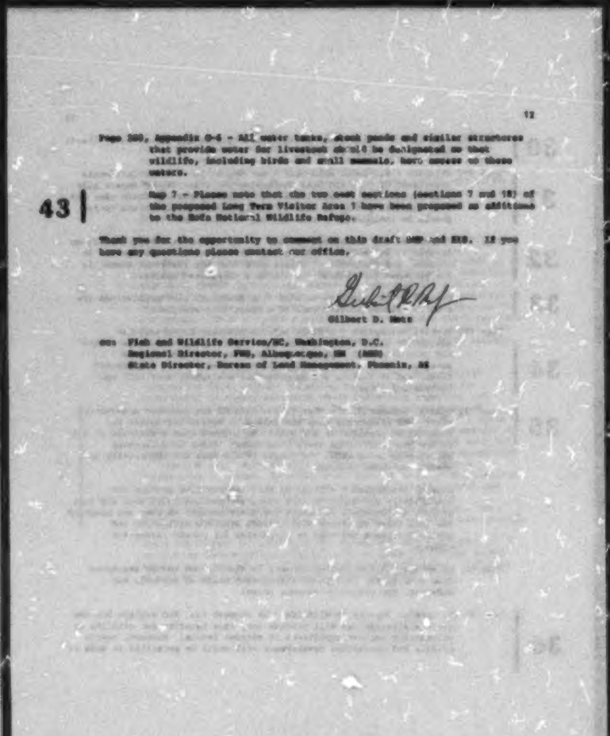
Mr. J. Darwin Snell
District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0687

Dear Mr. Snell:

We have reviewed the Yuma District Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement as requested in a letter from your office dated February 12, 1985.

1 We suggest that the final EIS identify those aspects of the Resource Management Plan that would involve work or structures in the Colorado River, a "navigable water of the United States" or that would involve discharge of dredged or fill material into "waters of the United States". Corps of Engineers permits are required for structures or work in or affecting "navigable waters of the United States" pursuant to Section 10 of the River and Harbor Act and for the discharge of dredged or fill material into "waters of the United States" pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Any aspect of the Bureau's proposed Resource Management Plan that would result in structures or work in the Colorado River or that would result in the discharge of dredged or fill material into the Colorado River or any other waters of the United States would be subject to Army authorization pursuant to the above stated Acts whether performed by a federal or non-federal agency or by a private individual. The point of contact regarding the Corps regulatory program in the proposed project area is Mr. Glenn Lukos of our Regulatory Branch, at (213) 688-5606 or (FTS) 798-5606.

2 The Proposed Management Plan and EIS adequately address the flood-related issues in the flood plain of the Colorado River; however, we suggest that the final documents address flooding along the Gila River in more detail. Painted Rock Dam, a U. S. Army Corps of Engineers flood control facility, is located on the Gila River, approximately 125 miles upstream of its confluence with the Colorado River. The lower 30 to 60 miles of the flood plain of the Gila below the dam are included in the Proposed Management Plan. The dam was established with an agreement from local sponsors (Yuma and Maricopa Counties) to regulate the Gila River flood plain to accommodate 22,500 cfs releases without encroachment constraints. Unfortunately, encroachment has occurred since construction of the dam in 1959; therefore, we suggest that you coordinate any appreciable flood plain land use with the



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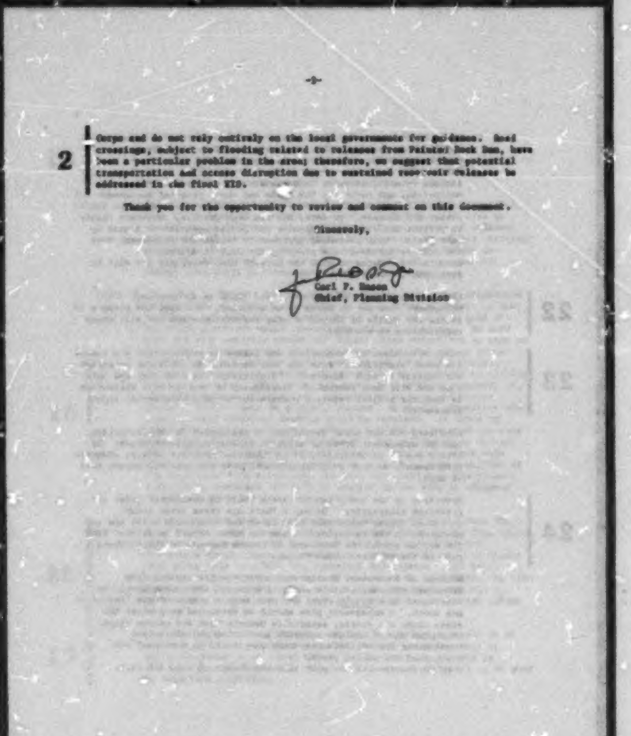
Page 260, Appendix G-6 - All water tanks, stock ponds and similar structures that provide water for livestock should be designated so that wildlife, including birds and small mammals, have access to these waters.

43 Map 7 - Please note that the two east sections (sections 7 and 18) of the proposed Long Term Visitor Area 7 have been proposed as additions to the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this draft RMP and EIS. If you have any questions please contact our office.

Gilbert D. Metz

cc: Fish and Wildlife Service/WC, Washington, D.C.
Regional Director, FWS, Albuquerque, NM (AWE)
State Director, Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix, AZ



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2 Corps and do not rely entirely on the local governments for guidance. Road crossings, subject to flooding related to releases from Painted Rock Dam, have been a particular problem in the area; therefore, we suggest that potential transportation and access disruption due to sustained reservoir releases be addressed in the final EIS.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this document.

Sincerely,

Carl F. Enson
Chief, Planning Division

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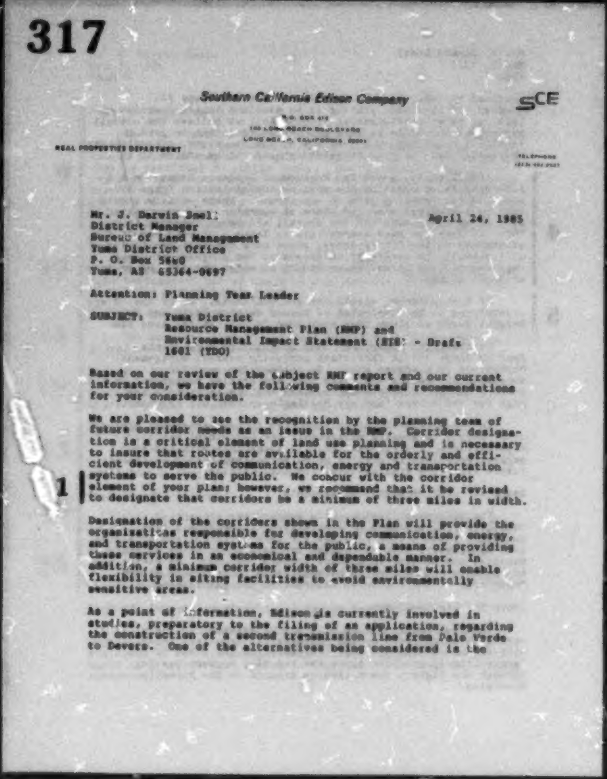


Southern California Edison Company

P.O. BOX 410
100 LONG BEACH BOULEVARD
LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90801

REAL PROPERTIES DEPARTMENT

TELEPHONE
(213) [illegible]

April 24, 1985

Mr. J. Darwin Snell
District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P. O. Box 5660
Yuma, AZ 85364-0697

Attention: Planning Team Leader

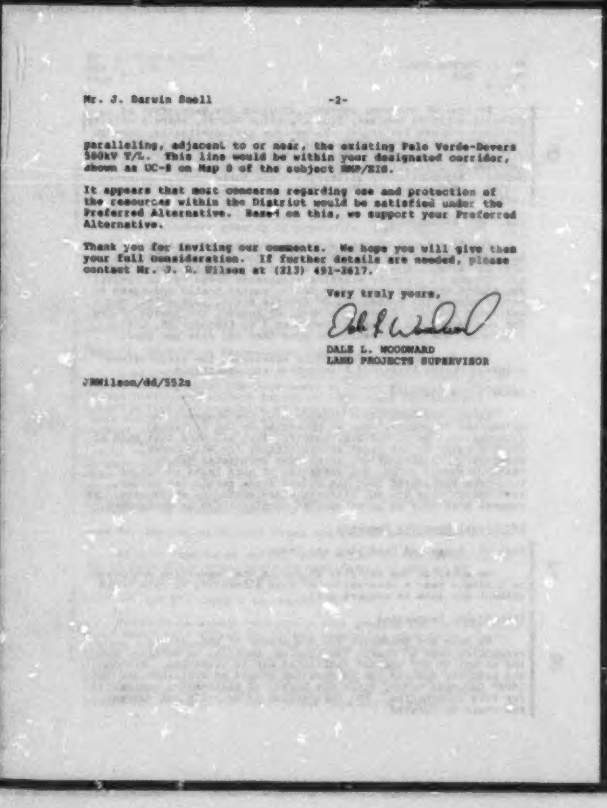
SUBJECT: Yuma District
Resource Management Plan (RMP) and
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) - Draft
1601 (YDO)

Based on our review of the subject RMP report and our current information, we have the following comments and recommendations for your consideration.

We are pleased to see the recognition by the planning team of future corridor needs as an issue in the RMP. Corridor designation is a critical element of land use planning and is necessary to insure that routes are available for the orderly and efficient development of communication, energy and transportation
1 systems to serve the public. We concur with the corridor element of your plan; however, we recommend that it be revised to designate that corridors be a minimum of three miles in width.

Designation of the corridors shown in the Plan will provide the organizations responsible for developing communication, energy, and transportation systems for the public, a means of providing these services in an economical and dependable manner. In addition, a minimum corridor width of three miles will enable flexibility in siting facilities to avoid environmentally sensitive areas.

As a point of information, Edison is currently involved in studies, preparatory to the filing of an application, regarding the construction of a second transmission line from Palo Verde to Devers. One of the alternatives being considered is the



Mr. J. Darwin Snell -2-

paralleling, adjacent to or near, the existing Palo Verde-Devers 500kV T/L. This line would be within your designated corridor, shown as UC-8 on Map 8 of the subject RMP/EIS.

It appears that most concerns regarding use and protection of the resources within the District would be satisfied under the Preferred Alternative. Based on this, we support your Preferred Alternative.

Thank you for inviting our comments. We hope you will give them your full consideration. If further details are needed, please contact Mr. J. D. Wilson at (213) 491-2617.

Very truly yours,

Dale L. Woodward

DALE L. WOODWARD
LAND PROJECTS SUPERVISOR

JDWilson/dd/552s

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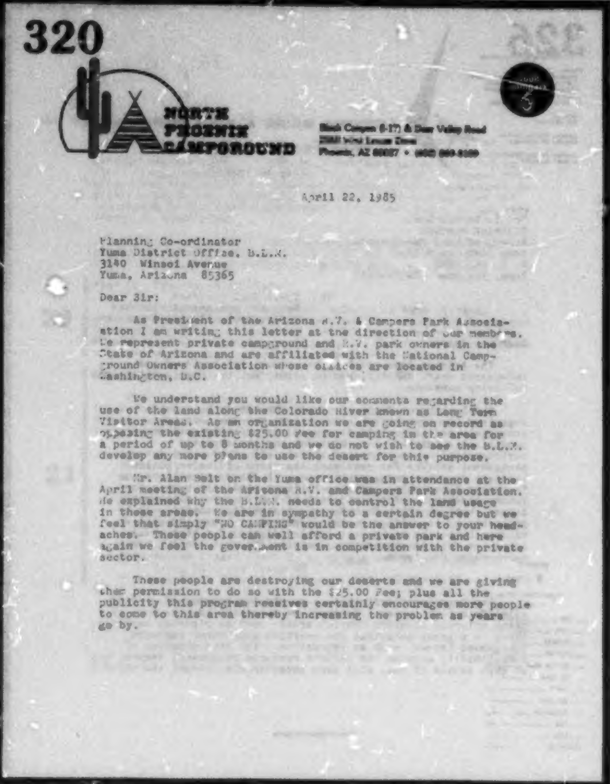


NORTH
PHOENIX
CAMPGROUND

Black Canyon (I-17) & Deer Valley Road
2550 West Louise Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85027 • (602) [illegible]

April 22, 1985

Planning Co-ordinator
Yuma District Office, B.L.M.
3140 Winsol Avenue
Yuma, Arizona 85365

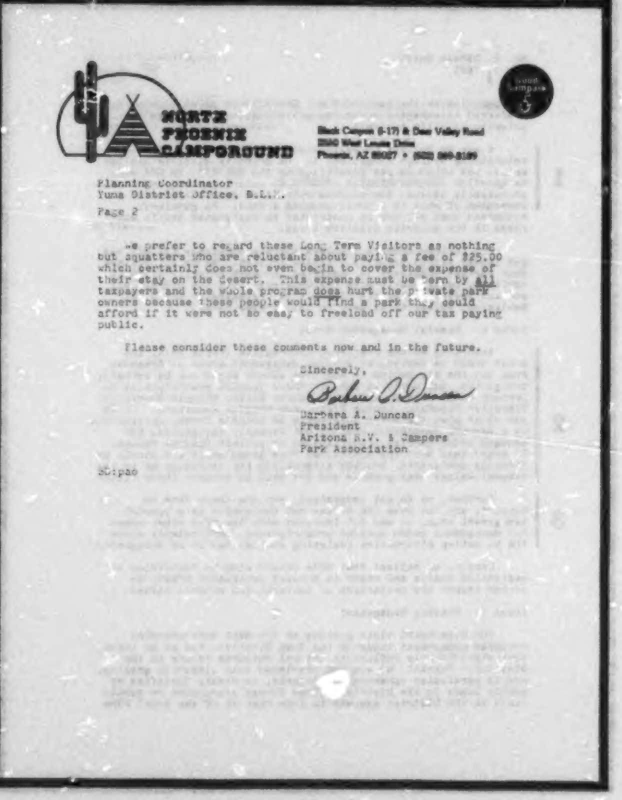
Dear Sir:

As President of the Arizona R.V. & Campers Park Association I am writing this letter at the direction of our members. We represent private campground and R.V. park owners in the State of Arizona and are affiliated with the National Campground Owners Association whose offices are located in Washington, D.C.

We understand you would like our comments regarding the use of the land along the Colorado River known as Long Term Visitor Areas. As an organization we are going on record as opposing the existing $25.00 fee for camping in the area for a period of up to 8 months and we do not wish to see the B.L.M. develop any more plans to use the desert for this purpose.

Mr. Alan Belt on the Yuma office was in attendance at the April meeting of the Arizona R.V. and Campers Park Association. He explained why the B.L.M. needs to control the land usage in these areas. We are in sympathy to a certain degree but we feel that simply "NO CAMPING" would be the answer to your headaches. These people can well afford a private park and here again we feel the government is in competition with the private sector.

These people are destroying our deserts and we are giving them permission to do so with the $25.00 Fee; plus all the publicity this program receives certainly encourages more people to come to this area thereby increasing the problem as years go by.



NORTH
PHOENIX
CAMPGROUND

Black Canyon (I-17) & Deer Valley Road
2550 West Louise Drive
Phoenix, AZ 85027 • (602) [illegible]

Planning Coordinator
Yuma District Office, B.L.M.

Page 2

We prefer to regard these Long Term Visitors as nothing but squatters who are reluctant about paying a fee of $25.00 which certainly does not even begin to cover the expense of their stay on the desert. This expense must be born by all taxpayers and the whole program does hurt the private park owners because these people would find a park they could afford if it were not so easy to freeload off our tax paying public.

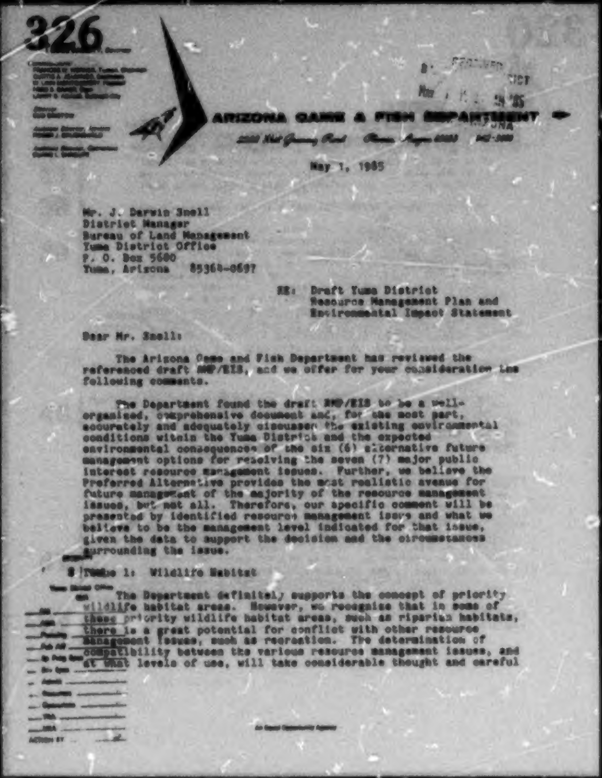
Please consider these comments now and in the future.

Sincerely,

Barbara A. Duncan

Barbara A. Duncan
President
Arizona R.V. & Campers
Park Association

BD:pao



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ARIZONA GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT

May 1, 1985

Mr. J. Darwin Snell
District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P. O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

RE: Draft Yuma District
Resource Management Plan and
Environmental Impact Statement

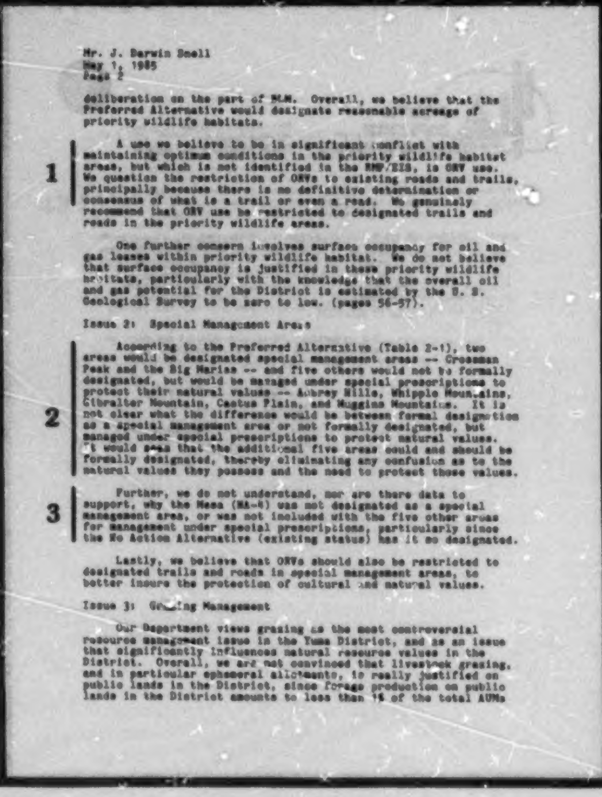
Dear Mr. Snell:

The Arizona Game and Fish Department has reviewed the referenced draft RMP/EIS, and we offer for your consideration the following comments.

The Department found the draft RMP/EIS to be a well-organized, comprehensive document and, for the most part, accurately and adequately discusses the existing environmental conditions within the Yuma District and the expected environmental consequences of the six (6) alternative future management options for resolving the seven (7) major public interest resource management issues. Further, we believe the Preferred Alternative provides the most realistic avenue for future management of the majority of the resource management issues, but not all. Therefore, our specific comment will be presented by identified resource management issue and what we believe to be the management level indicated for that issue, given the data to support the decision and the circumstances surrounding the issue.

Issue 1: Wildlife Habitat

The Department definitely supports the concept of priority wildlife habitat areas. However, we recognize that in some of these priority wildlife habitat areas, such as riparian habitats, there is a great potential for conflict with other resource management issues, such as recreation. The determination of compatibility between the various resource management issues, and at what levels of use, will take considerable thought and careful



Mr. J. Darwin Snell
May 1, 1985
Page 2

deliberation on the part of BLM. Overall, we believe that the Preferred Alternative would designate reasonable acreage of priority wildlife habitats.

1 A use we believe to be in significant conflict with maintaining optimum conditions in the priority wildlife habitat areas, but which is not identified in the RMP/EIS, is ORV use. We question the restriction of ORVs to existing roads and trails, principally because there is no definitive determination or consensus of what is a trail or even a road. We genuinely recommend that ORV use be restricted to designated trails and roads in the priority wildlife areas.

One further concern involves surface occupancy for oil and gas leases within priority wildlife habitat. We do not believe that surface occupancy is justified in these priority wildlife habitats, particularly with the knowledge that the overall oil and gas potential for the District is estimated by the U. S. Geological Survey to be zero to low. (pages 56-57).

Issue 2: Special Management Areas

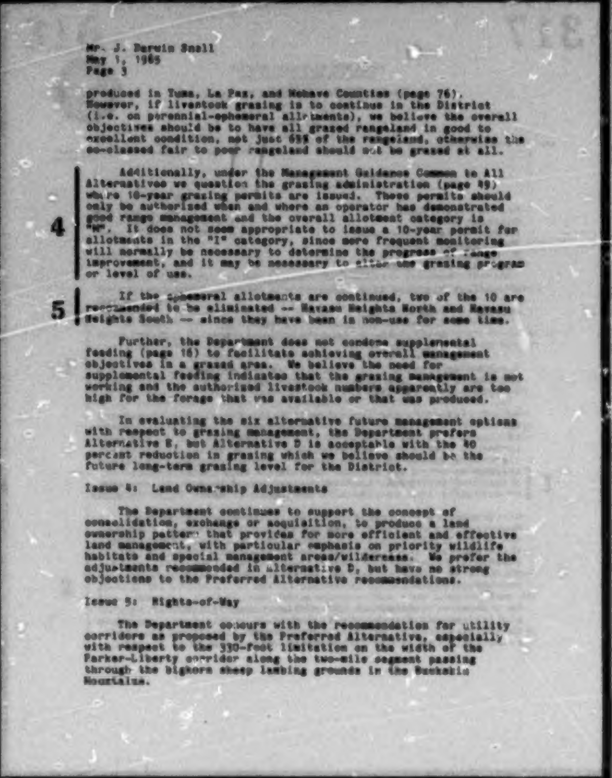
2 According to the Preferred Alternative (Table 2-1), two areas would be designated special management areas -- Crossman Peak and the Big Marias -- and five others would not be formally designated, but would be managed under special prescriptions to protect their natural values -- Aubrey Hills, Whipple Mountains, Gibralter Mountain, Cactus Plain, and Muggins Mountains. It is not clear what the difference would be between formal designation as a special management area or not formally designated, but managed under special prescriptions to protect natural values. It would seem that the additional five areas could and should be formally designated, thereby eliminating any confusion as to the natural values they possess and the need to protect those values.

3 Further, we do not understand, nor are there data to support, why the Mesa (MA-4) was not designated as a special management area, or was not included with the five other areas for management under special prescriptions, particularly since the No Action Alternative (existing status) has it so designated.

Lastly, we believe that ORVs should also be restricted to designated trails and roads in special management areas, to better insure the protection of cultural and natural values.

Issue 3: Grazing Management

Our Department views grazing as the most controversial resource management issue in the Yuma District, and as an issue that significantly influences natural resource values in the District. Overall, we are not convinced that livestock grazing, and in particular ephemeral allotments, is really justified on public lands in the District, since forage production on public lands in the District amounts to less than 1% of the total AUMs



Mr. J. Darwin Snell
May 1, 1985
Page 3

produced in Yuma, La Paz, and Mohave Counties (page 76). However, if livestock grazing is to continue in the District (i.e. on perennial-ephemeral allotments), we believe the overall objectives should be to have all grazed rangeland in good to excellent condition, not just 65% of the rangeland, otherwise the so-classed fair to poor rangeland should not be grazed at all.

4 Additionally, under the Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives we question the grazing administration (page 49) where 10-year grazing permits are issued. These permits should only be authorized when and where an operator has demonstrated good range management and the overall allotment category is "M". It does not seem appropriate to issue a 10-year permit for allotments in the "I" category, since more frequent monitoring will normally be necessary to determine the progress of range improvement, and it may be necessary to alter the grazing program or level of use.

5 If the ephemeral allotments are continued, two of the 10 are recommended to be eliminated -- Havasu Heights North and Havasu Heights South -- since they have been in non-use for some time.

Further, the Department does not condone supplemental feeding (page 16) to facilitate achieving overall management objectives in a grazed area. We believe the need for supplemental feeding indicates that the grazing management is not working and the authorized livestock numbers apparently are too high for the forage that was available or that was produced.

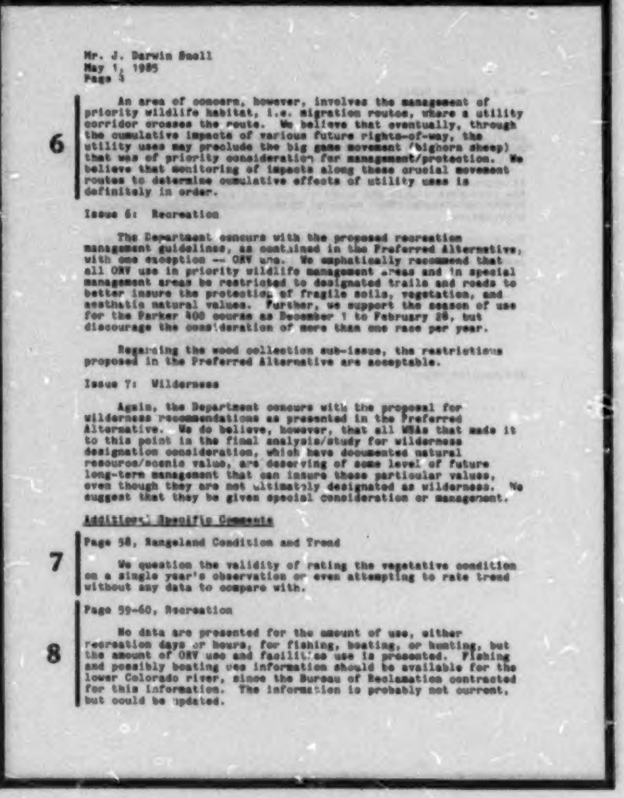
In evaluating the six alternative future management options with respect to grazing management, the Department prefers Alternative E, but Alternative D is acceptable with the 40 percent reduction in grazing which we believe should be the future long-term grazing level for the District.

Issue 4: Land Ownership Adjustments

The Department continues to support the concept of consolidation, exchange or acquisition, to produce a land ownership pattern that provides for more efficient and effective land management, with particular emphasis on priority wildlife habitats and special management areas/wilderness. We prefer the adjustments recommended in Alternative D, but have no strong objections to the Preferred Alternative recommendations.

Issue 5: Rights-of-Way

The Department concurs with the recommendation for utility corridors as proposed by the Preferred Alternative, especially with respect to the 330-foot limitation on the width of the Parker-Liberty corridor along the two-mile segment passing through the bighorn sheep lambing grounds in the Buckskin Mountains.



Mr. J. Darwin Snell
May 1, 1985
Page 4

6 An area of concern, however, involves the management of priority wildlife habitat, i.e. migration routes, where a utility corridor crosses the route. We believe that eventually, through the cumulative impacts of various future rights-of-way, the utility uses may preclude the big game movement (bighorn sheep) that was of priority consideration for management/protection. We believe that monitoring of impacts along these crucial movement routes to determine cumulative effects of utility uses is definitely in order.

Issue 6: Recreation

The Department concurs with the proposed recreation management guidelines, as contained in the Preferred Alternative, with one exception -- ORV use. We emphatically recommend that all ORV use in priority wildlife management areas and in special management areas be restricted to designated trails and roads to better insure the protection of fragile soils, vegetation, and aesthetic natural values. Further, we support the season of use for the Parker 400 course as December 1 to February 28, but discourage the consideration of more than one race per year.

Regarding the wood collection sub-issue, the restrictions proposed in the Preferred Alternative are acceptable.

Issue 7: Wilderness

Again, the Department concurs with the proposal for wilderness recommendations as presented in the Preferred Alternative. We do believe, however, that all WSAs that made it to this point in the final analysis/study for wilderness designation consideration, which have documented natural resource/scenic value, are deserving of some level of future long-term management that can insure these particular values, even though they are not ultimately designated as wilderness. We suggest that they be given special consideration or management.

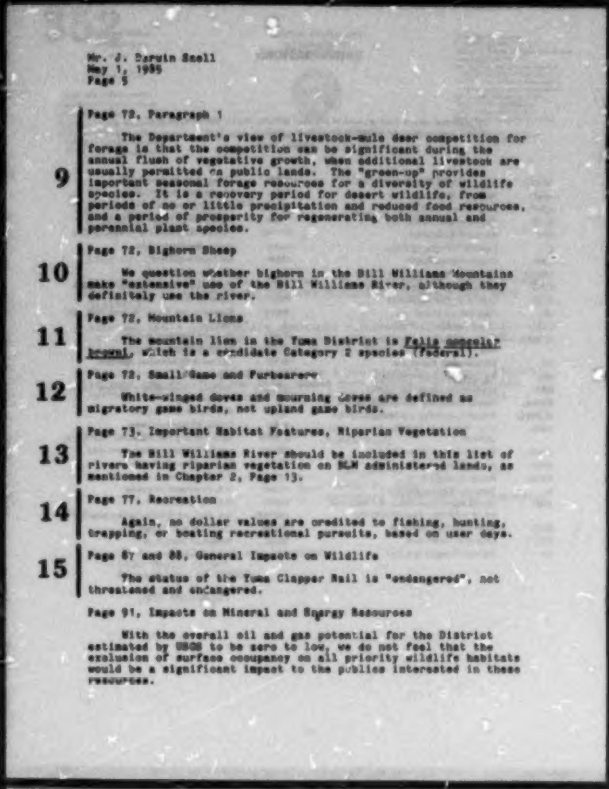
Additional Specific Comments

7 Page 58, Rangeland Condition and Trend

We question the validity of rating the vegetative condition on a single year's observation or even attempting to rate trend without any data to compare with.

8 Page 59-60, Recreation

No data are presented for the amount of use, either recreation days or hours, for fishing, boating, or hunting, but the amount of ORV use and facilities use is presented. Fishing and possibly boating use information should be available for the lower Colorado river, since the Bureau of Reclamation contracted for this information. The information is probably not current, but could be updated.



Mr. J. Darwin Snell
May 1, 1985
Page 5

Page 72, Paragraph 1

9 The Department's view of livestock-mule deer competition for forage is that the competition can be significant during the annual flush of vegetative growth, when additional livestock are usually permitted on public lands. The "green-up" provides important seasonal forage resources for a diversity of wildlife species. It is a recovery period for desert wildlife, from periods of no or little precipitation and reduced food resources, and a period of prosperity for regenerating both annual and perennial plant species.

Page 72, Bighorn Sheep

10 We question whether bighorn in the Bill Williams Mountains make "extensive" use of the Bill Williams River, although they definitely use the river.

Page 72, Mountain Lions

11 The mountain lion in the Yuma District is *Felis concolor browni*, which is a candidate Category 2 species (Federal).

Page 72, Small Game and Furbearers

12 White-winged doves and mourning doves are defined as migratory game birds, not upland game birds.

Page 73, Important Habitat Features, Riparian Vegetation

13 The Bill Williams River should be included in this list of rivers having riparian vegetation on BLM administered lands, as mentioned in Chapter 2, Page 13.

Page 77, Recreation

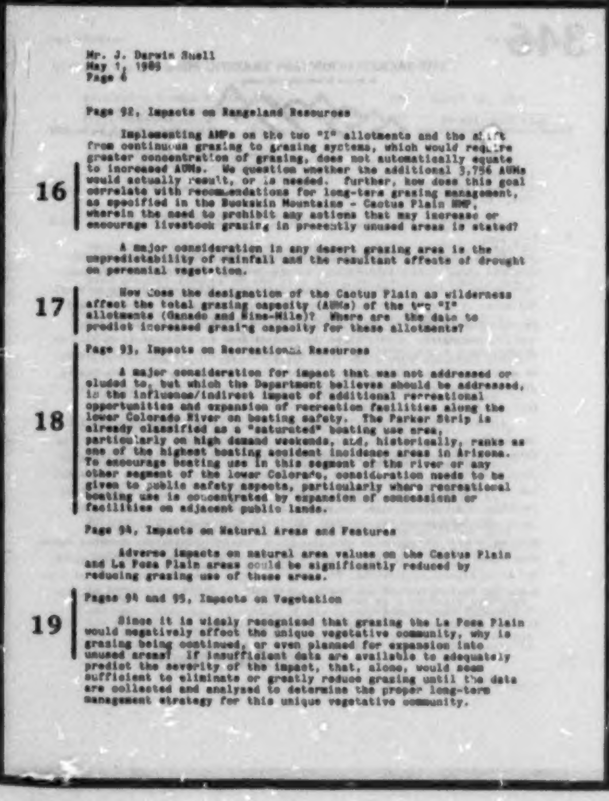
14 Again, no dollar values are credited to fishing, hunting, trapping, or boating recreational pursuits, based on user days.

Page 87 and 88, General Impacts on Wildlife

15 The status of the Yuma Clapper Rail is "endangered", not threatened and endangered.

Page 91, Impacts on Mineral and Energy Resources

With the overall oil and gas potential for the District estimated by USGS to be zero to low, we do not feel that the exclusion of surface occupancy on all priority wildlife habitats would be a significant impact to the publics interested in these resources.



Mr. J. Darwin Snell
May 1, 1985
Page 6

Page 92, Impacts on Rangeland Resources

16 Implementing AMPs on the two "I" allotments and the shift from continuous grazing to grazing systems, which would require greater concentration of grazing, does not automatically equate to increased AUMs. We question whether the additional 3,756 AUMs would actually result, or is needed. Further, how does this goal correlate with recommendations for long-term grazing management, as specified in the Buckskin Mountains - Cactus Plain HMP, wherein the need to prohibit any actions that may increase or encourage livestock grazing in presently unused areas is stated?

A major consideration in any desert grazing area is the unpredictability of rainfall and the resultant effects of drought on perennial vegetation.

17 How does the designation of the Cactus Plain as wilderness affect the total grazing capacity (AUMs) of the two "I" allotments (Ganado and Nine-Mile)? Where are the data to predict increased grazing capacity for these allotments?

Page 93, Impacts on Recreational Resources

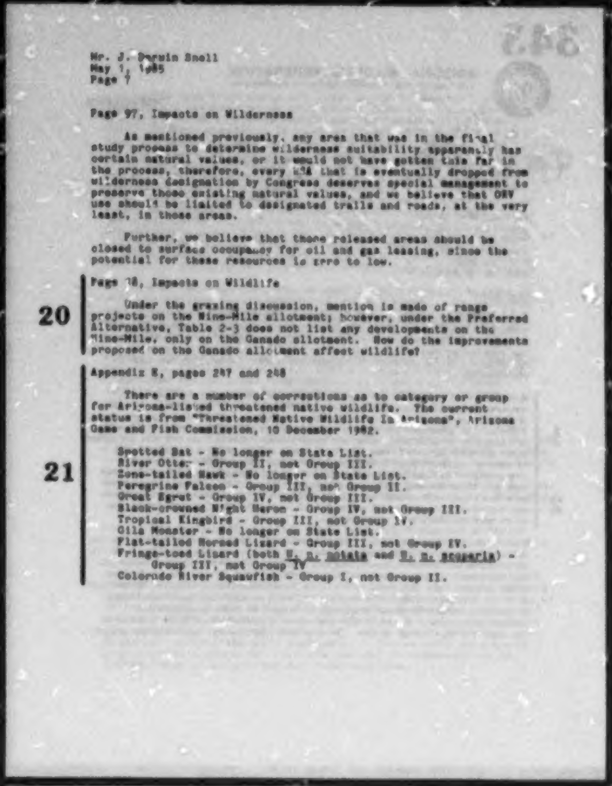
18 A major consideration for impact that was not addressed or eluded to, but which the Department believes should be addressed, is the influence/indirect impact of additional recreational opportunities and expansion of recreation facilities along the lower Colorado River on boating safety. The Parker Strip is already classified as a "saturated" boating use area, particularly on high demand weekends, and, historically, ranks as one of the highest boating accident incidence areas in Arizona. To encourage boating use in this segment of the river or any other segment of the lower Colorado, consideration needs to be given to public safety aspects, particularly where recreational boating use is concentrated by expansion of concessions or facilities on adjacent public lands.

Page 94, Impacts on Natural Areas and Features

Adverse impacts on natural area values on the Cactus Plain and La Posa Plain areas could be significantly reduced by reducing grazing use of these areas.

Pages 94 and 95, Impacts on Vegetation

19 Since it is widely recognized that grazing the La Posa Plain would negatively affect the unique vegetative community, why is grazing being continued, or even planned for expansion into unused areas? If insufficient data are available to adequately predict the severity of the impact, that, alone, would seem sufficient to eliminate or greatly reduce grazing until the data are collected and analyzed to determine the proper long-term management strategy for this unique vegetative community.



Mr. J. Darwin Snell
May 1, 1985
Page 7

Page 97, Impacts on Wilderness

As mentioned previously, any area that was in the final study process to determine wilderness suitability apparently has certain natural values, or it would not have gotten this far in the process, therefore, every WSA that is eventually dropped from wilderness designation by Congress deserves special management to preserve those existing natural values, and we believe that ORV use should be limited to designated trails and roads, at the very least, in those areas.

Further, we believe that those released areas should be closed to surface occupancy for oil and gas leasing, since the potential for these resources is zero to low.

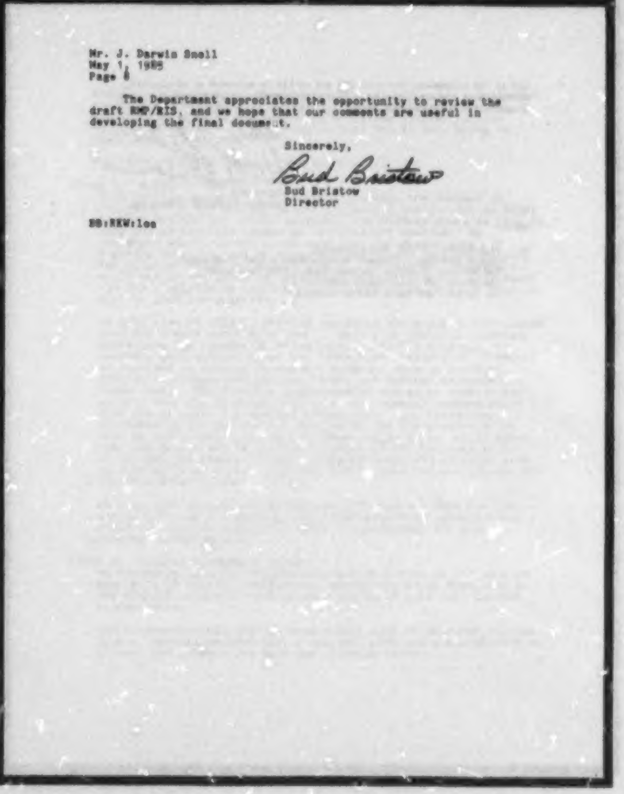
Page 98, Impacts on Wildlife

20 Under the grazing discussion, mention is made of range projects on the Nine-Mile allotment; however, under the Preferred Alternative, Table 2-3 does not list any developments on the Nine-Mile, only on the Ganado allotment. How do the improvements proposed on the Ganado allotment affect wildlife?

Appendix E, pages 247 and 248

There are a number of corrections as to category or group for Arizona-listed threatened native wildlife. The current status is from "Threatened Native Wildlife In Arizona", Arizona Game and Fish Commission, 10 December 1982.

21
Spotted Bat - No longer on State List.
River Otter - Group II, not Group III.
Zone-tailed Hawk - No longer on State List.
Peregrine Falcon - Group III, not Group II.
Great Egret - Group IV, not Group III.
Black-crowned Night Heron - Group IV, not Group III.
Tropical Kingbird - Group III, not Group IV.
Gila Monster - No longer on State List.
Flat-tailed Horned Lizard - Group III, not Group IV.
Fringe-toed Lizard (both *U. n. notata* and *U. n. scoparia*) - Group III, not Group IV
Colorado River Squawfish - Group I, not Group II.



Mr. J. Darwin Snell
May 1, 1985
Page 8

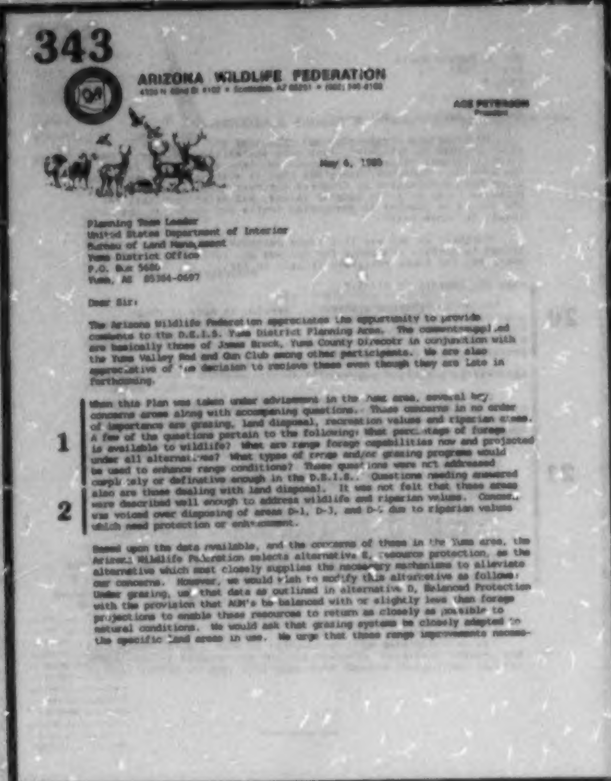
The Department appreciates the opportunity to review the draft RMP/EIS, and we hope that our comments are useful in developing the final document.

Sincerely,

Bud Bristow

Bud Bristow
Director

BB:REW:lee



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ARIZONA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

ACE PETERSON
President

May 6, 1989

Planning Team Leader
United States Department of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District Office
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, AZ 85364-0697

Dear Sir:

The Arizona Wildlife Federation appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the D.E.I.S. Yuma District Planning Area. The comments supplied are basically those of James Bruck, Yuma County Direcotr in conjunction with the Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club among other participants. We are also appreciative of the decision to recieve these even though they are late in forthcoming.

1 When this Plan was taken under advisement in the Yuma area, several key concerns arose along with accompaning questions. These concerns in no order of importance are grazing, land disposal, recreation values and riparian areas. A few of the questions pertain to the following: What percentage of forage is available to wildlife? What are range forage capabilities now and projected under all alternatives? What types of range and/or grazing programs would be used to enhance range conditions? These questions were not addressed completely or definative enough in the D.E.I.S.. Questions needing answered

2 also are those dealing with land disposal. It was not felt that these areas were described well enough to address wildlife and riparian values. Concern was voiced over disposing of areas D-1, D-3, and D-4 due to riparian values which need protection or enhancement.

Based upon the data available, and the concerns of those in the Yuma area, the Arizona Wildlife Federation selects alternative E, resource protection, as the alternative which most closely supplies the necessary mechanisms to alleviate our concerns. However, we would wish to modify this alternative as follows: Under grazing, use that data as outlined in alternative D, Balanced Protection with the provision that AUM's be balanced with or slightly less than forage projections to enable these resources to return as closely as possible to natural conditions. We would ask that grazing systems be closely adapted to the specific land areas in use. We urge that those range improvements necess-

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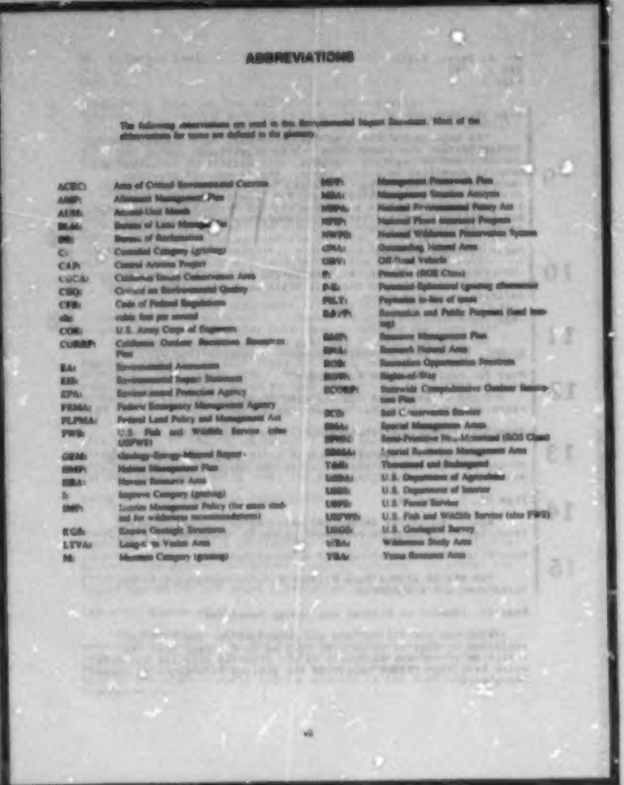

ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations are used in this Environmental Impact Statement. Most of the abbreviations for terms are defined in the glossary.

ACEC:	Area of Critical Environmental Concern	MFP:	Management Framework Plan
AMP:	Allotment Management Plan	MSA:	Management Situation Analysis
AUM:	Animal-Unit Month	NEPA:	National Environmental Policy Act
BLM:	Bureau of Land Management	NFIP:	National Flood Insurance Program
BR:	Bureau of Reclamation	NWPS:	National Wilderness Preservation System
C:	Custodial Category (grazing)	ONA:	Outstanding Natural Area
CAP:	Central Arizona Project	ORV:	Off-Road Vehicle
CDCA:	California Desert Conservation Area	P:	Primitive (ROS Class)
CEQ:	Council on Environmental Quality	P-E:	Perennial-Ephemeral (grazing allotments)
CFR:	Code of Federal Regulations	PILT:	Payments in-lieu of taxes
cfs:	cubic feet per second	R&PP:	Recreation and Public Purposes (land leasing)
COE:	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	RMP:	Resource Management Plan
CORRP:	California Outdoor Recreation Resource Plan	RNA:	Research Natural Area
EA:	Environmental Assessment	ROS:	Recreation Opportunities Spectrum
EIS:	Environmental Impact Statement	ROW:	Right-of-Way
EPA:	Environmental Protection Agency	SCORP:	Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan
FEMA:	Federal Emergency Management Agency	SCS:	Soil Conservation Service
FLPMA:	Federal Land Policy and Management Act	SMA:	Special Management Area
FWS:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (also USFWS)	SPNM:	Semi-Primitive Non-Motorized (ROS Class)
GEM:	Geology-Energy-Mineral Report	SRMA:	Special Recreation Management Area
HMP:	Habitat Management Plan	T&E:	Threatened and Endangered
HRA:	Havasu Resource Area	USDA:	U.S. Department of Agriculture
I:	Improve Category (grazing)	USDI:	U.S. Department of Interior
IMP:	Interim Management Policy (for areas studied for wilderness recommendations)	USFS:	U.S. Forest Service
KGS:	Known Geologic Structures	USFWS:	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (also FWS)
LTVA:	Long-term Visitor Area	USGS:	U.S. Geological Survey
M:	Maintain Category (grazing)	WSA:	Wilderness Study Area
		YRA:	Yuma Resource Area

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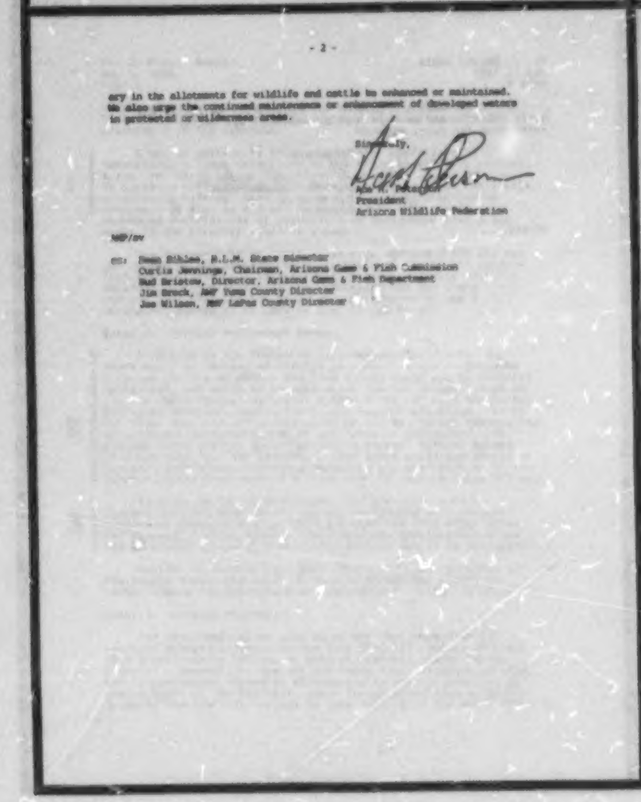


- 2 -

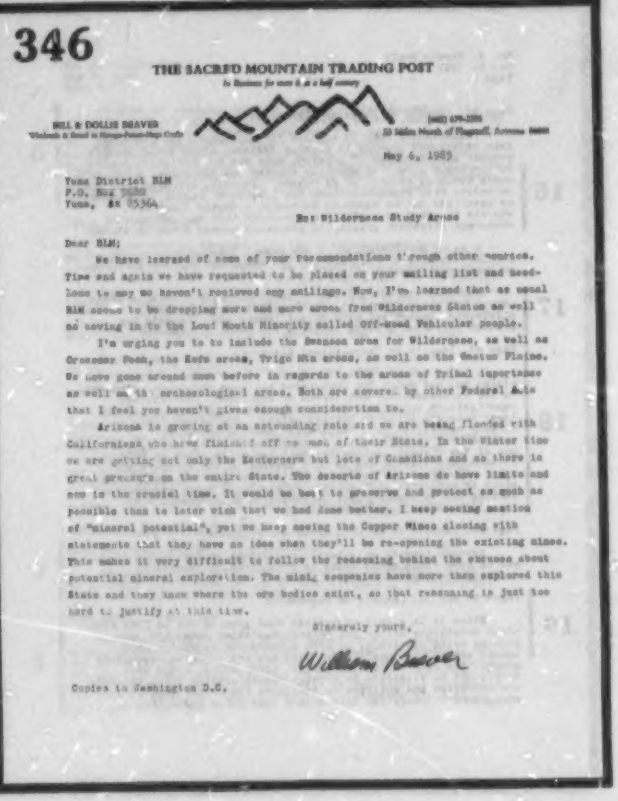
ary in the allotments for wildlife and cattle be enhanced or maintained. We also urge the continued maintenance or enhancement of developed waters in protected or wilderness areas.

Sincerely,

Ace H. Peterson
Ace H. Peterson
President
Arizona Wildlife Federation

AHP/sv

cc: Dean Bibles, B.L.M. State Director
Curtis Jennings, Chairman, Arizona Game & Fish Commission
Bud Bristow, Director, Arizona Game & Fish Department
Jim Bruck, AWF Yuma County Director
Joe Wilson, AWF LaPaz County Director



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THE SACRED MOUNTAIN TRADING POST
In Business for over a half century

BILL & DOLLIS BEAVER
Wholesale & Retail in Navajo-Pueblo-Hopi Crafts

Miles North of Flagstaff, Arizona

May 6, 1989

Yuma District BLM
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, Az 85364

Re: Wilderness Study Areas

Dear BLM;

We have learned of some of your recommendations through other sources. Time and again we have requested to be placed on your mailing list and needless to say we haven't recieved any mailings. Now, I've learned that as usual BLM seems to be dropping more and more areas from Wilderness Status as well as caving in to the Loud Mouth Minority called Off-Road Vehicular people.

I'm urging you to to include the Swansea area for Wilderness, as well as Crossman Peak, the Kofa areas, Trigo Mts areas, as well as the Cactus Plains. We have gone around once before in regards to the areas of Tribal importance as well as the archeological areas. Both are covered by other Federal Acts that I feel you haven't given enough consideration to.

Arizona is growing at an astounding rate and we are being flooded with Californians who have finished off so much of their State. In the Winter time we are getting not only the Easterners but lots of Canadians and so there is great pressure on the entire State. The deserts of Arizona do have limits and now is the crucial time. It would be best to preserve and protect as much as possible than to later wish that we had done better. I keep seeing mention of "mineral potential", yet we keep seeing the Copper Mines closing with statements that they have no idea when they'll be re-opening the existing mines. This makes it very difficult to follow the reasoning behind the excuses about potential mineral exploration. The mining companies have more than explored this State and they know where the ore bodies exist, so that reasoning is just too hard to justify at this time.

Sincerely yours,

William Beaver

Copies to Washington D.C.

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GEORGE DEUKMEJIAN
GOVERNOR OF
CALIFORNIA

Department of Conservation
Department of Fish and Game
Department of Forestry
Department of Boating and Waterways
Department of Parks and Recreation
Department of Water Resources
California Conservation Corps

THE RESOURCES AGENCY OF CALIFORNIA
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

Air Resources Board
California Coastal Commission
California Waste Management Board
Colorado River Board
Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission
San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
State Coastal Conservancy
State Lands Commission
State Reclamation Board
State Water Resources Control Board
Regional Water Quality Control Boards

Mr. J. Darwin Snell
Bureau of Land Management
Post Office Box 5680
Yuma, AZ 85364-0697

May 8, 1985

Dear Mr. Snell:

Attached are comments received from the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) regarding the draft Resource Management Plan and EIS, Yuma District.

Although DFG's comments are obviously submitted too late for inclusion in the final EIS, I hope that they may be of use to you in development of BLM's planning for the Yuma District.

Please accept our apologies for any undue hardship that our failure to meet the deadline may have caused your office. We appreciate having been given an opportunity to review your proposed plan.

Sincerely,

Charles K. Jellow
for Gordon F. Snow, Ph.D
Assistant Secretary for Resources

Attachment

cc: Office of Planning and Research
1400 Tenth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

(SCH 85012032)

State of California — The Resources Agency

Memorandum

To : Honorable Gordon K. Van Vleck
Secretary for Resources
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Date : April 26, 1985

Attn: Gordon F. Snow, Ph.D.
Projects Coordinator

From : Department of Fish and Game

Subject: Yuma District Resource Management Plan and EIS - SCH 85012032

Department of Fish and Game has reviewed the draft "Yuma District Resource Management Plan and EIS" and submits its comments for the California portion of that Plan. Our comments deal first with the more general aspects of the plan and then specific comments are listed for each issue.

Public opinion strongly favoring protection of desert scenery, wildlife, and environmental values was largely responsible for the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). Large majorities of respondents to a National Gallup Poll (1978) and a desert-wide (SRI International 1978) opinion poll identified more protection of wildlife and ecology and more protection of scenic qualities and natural character as their highest priorities for desert land use. In 1977 public opinion surveys conducted for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in California by Field Corp. showed that 79% of adult Californians viewed more protection of wildlife and ecological values to be the greatest need in the desert. This overwhelming public support for wildlife and BLM's recognition of sensitive species requires that there be redoubled efforts towards protection of the habitats necessary to support these species.

Yet this draft Resource Management Plan has recreation as its primary emphasis and the Plan appears to give recognition to wildlife only when it doesn't interfere with recreation. We believe there should be increased emphasis on protection of habitats with value for wildlife resources. In addition, more effort needs to be placed on developing knowledge on the status of "special interest" wildlife residing in the Yuma District, especially the desert tortoise and desert burro mule deer.

In addressing wildlife concerns, the wildlife portions of the document focus primarily on bighorn sheep as a priority wildlife species. However, by virtue of its highly significant economic and recreational values, the desert burro mule deer should also be qualified as a priority wildlife species. In addition, this deer is highly representative of most other desert wildlife species in its selection of habitats.

-2-

A recently concluded radio telemetry study of seasonal movements and habitat preferences of this desert deer found that deer mainly occupy the desert uplands during the cool season (September - May). Preferred habitat is then comprised of a network of dry wash woodlands in foothills and upper alluvial plains or terraces, and associated heads of major drainages. During the hot season (June - August) they occupy the lowlands near major water courses and habitat preference changes to riparian woodlands and in the absence of riparian woodlands, adjacent dry wash woodlands. The major wash systems connecting the seasonal home ranges are used as migration corridors. The corridors extend approximately six to ten miles in the Big Maria and Riverside Mountains and approximately 8 to 16 miles in the Whipple Mountains. In order to maintain and protect burro mule deer and most other desert wildlife species, all of the habitats they depend upon should be given high priority for protection in the Yuma District RMP-EIS.

The desert tortoise can also be used as an indicator species for wildlife using alluvial plains and wash habitats. If habitats are maintained in satisfactory condition for desert tortoises then chances are the habitats are suitable for most other forms of wildlife found there.

Recent data collected in California on desert tortoise (Berry and Nicholson, 1979) indicate that tortoise populations are highly fragmented due to urban development, agriculture, off road vehicle (ORV) use, grazing, utility and pipeline corridors, mining, roads, and other human activities.

We, therefore, recommend that the Yuma District identify areas where desert tortoise maintain reasonable population densities and include these areas under some form of habitat management program to perpetuate them. We feel that such a management program should include a plan for habitat preservation and enhancement. Particularly important in that plan will be the need to find a way to protect the species from ORV use and other activities that may degrade the habitat.

We further recommend that the Yuma District designate a Desert Tortoise Natural Area. This area should contain habitat suitable for tortoise and enhancement measures should be considered and implemented to make it better. At least a portion of the area should be fenced and ORV and other habitat-disturbing activities should be effectively controlled. This fenced area would produce benefits by providing a location where tortoises turned over to us by the public can be released safely. The controlled area would act as a "half-way" house or re-acclimatization site which would be needed before released tortoises, which may be carrying diseases, contact the wild population. The overall area would also provide a place for tortoise habitat improvements to be accomplished as mitigation for other actions.

-3-

Finally, we believe the Yuma District needs effective enforcement capability. Any Resource Management Plan which contains specifications to be met and/or prohibitions against certain actions is unlikely to have much success unless some means of enforcement is provided.

Our issue-by-issue comments are as follows:

Issue 1. Wildlife Habitat

This section needs to be enlarged to include the concept of "guilding" or the use of indicator wildlife species for an index of both habitat and animal welfare. The bighorn sheep is used in many desert mountain ranges as an indicator species. We recommend use of desert burro mule deer for desert wash and riparian habitats, and we recommend the desert tortoise be used for alluvial plain and desert washes. If discrete geographical areas can be set aside or designated specifically for management for these species as was done for bighorn sheep, further progress will be made for wildlife.

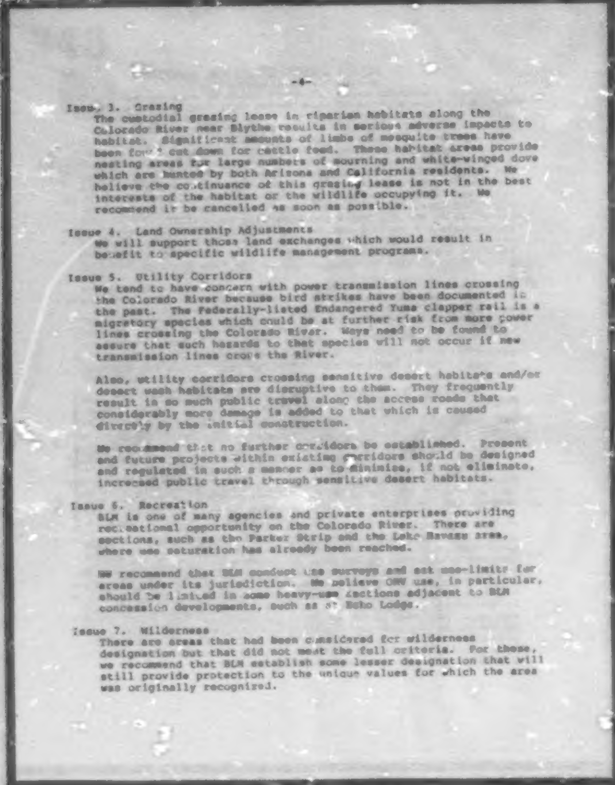
We will soon be able to provide copies of the State's "Management Plan for Desert Burro Mule Deer". This plan contains important guidelines for management which will enable BLM to focus on specific geographical areas and identified habitats which should be included in special management programs such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC) and Habitat Management Plans (HMP). The Plan has progressed to the point that we are certain that the Milpitas Wash area is a habitat complex which fits the criteria for special recognition. We, therefore, recommend it for designation similar to the designation to be used by BLM's California Desert Conservation Area. It is vital that its protection be carried eastward to the Colorado River. We believe the Desert District plans to designate Milpitas Wash as a Wildlife Area with a special HMP to preserve and enhance its valuable habitat associations.

We urge that BLM use and further develop its own data for the desert tortoise to identify and protect important geographical areas and habitat components which are essential for the species' preservation.

Issue 2. Special Management Areas

We recommend that the Whipple Mountain HA-3 area be included in some form of special designation, preferably as an ACEC, and a HMP adopted to protect and enhance the burro mule deer habitat values there.

The Laguna-Martinez (HA-12) area should also be included in some form of special designation, preferably ACEC and a HMP adopted to protect and enhance its fish and wildlife values.



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Issue 3. Grazing
The custodial grazing lease in riparian habitats along the Colorado River near Blythe results in serious adverse impacts to habitat. Significant amounts of limbs of mesquite trees have been found cut down for cattle feed. These habitat areas provide nesting areas for large numbers of mourning and white-winged dove which are hunted by both Arizona and California residents. We believe the continuance of this grazing lease is not in the best interests of the habitat or the wildlife occupying it. We recommend it be cancelled as soon as possible.

Issue 4. Land Ownership Adjustments
We will support those land exchanges which would result in benefit to specific wildlife management programs.

Issue 5. Utility Corridors
We tend to have concern with power transmission lines crossing the Colorado River because bird strikes have been documented in the past. The Federally-listed Endangered Yuma clapper rail is a migratory species which could be at further risk from more power lines crossing the Colorado River. Ways need to be found to assure that such hazards to that species will not occur if new transmission lines cross the River.

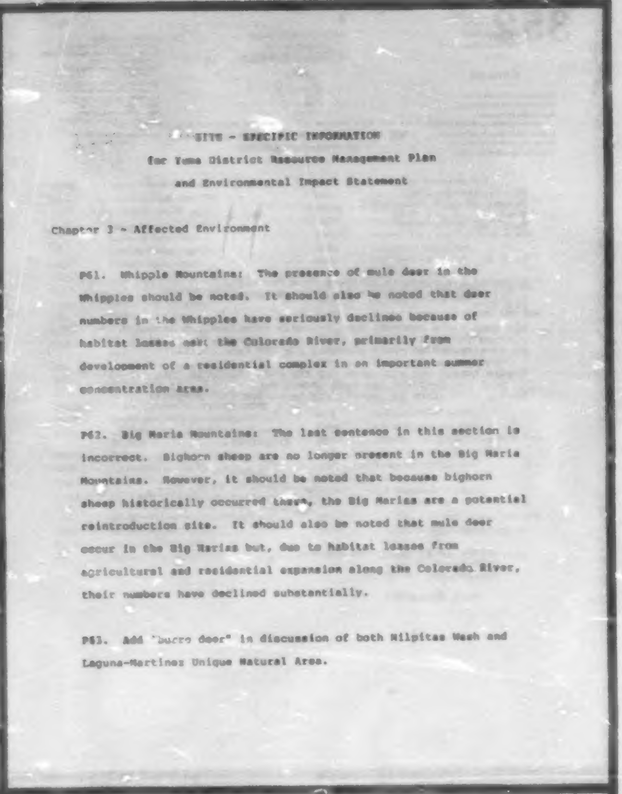
Also, utility corridors crossing sensitive desert habitats and/or desert wash habitats are disruptive to them. They frequently result in so much public travel along the access roads that considerably more damage is added to that which is caused directly by the initial construction.

We recommend that no further corridors be established. Present and future projects within existing corridors should be designed and regulated in such a manner as to minimize, if not eliminate, increased public travel through sensitive desert habitats.

Issue 6. Recreation
BLM is one of many agencies and private enterprises providing recreational opportunity on the Colorado River. There are sections, such as the Parker Strip and the Lake Havasu area, where use saturation has already been reached.

We recommend that BLM conduct use surveys and set use-limits for areas under its jurisdiction. We believe ORV use, in particular, should be limited in some heavy-use sections adjacent to BLM concession developments, such as at Echo Lodge.

Issue 7. Wilderness
There are areas that had been considered for wilderness designation but that did not meet the full criteria. For those, we recommend that BLM establish some lesser designation that will still provide protection to the unique values for which the area was originally recognized.



SITE - SPECIFIC INFORMATION

for Yuma District Resource Management Plan

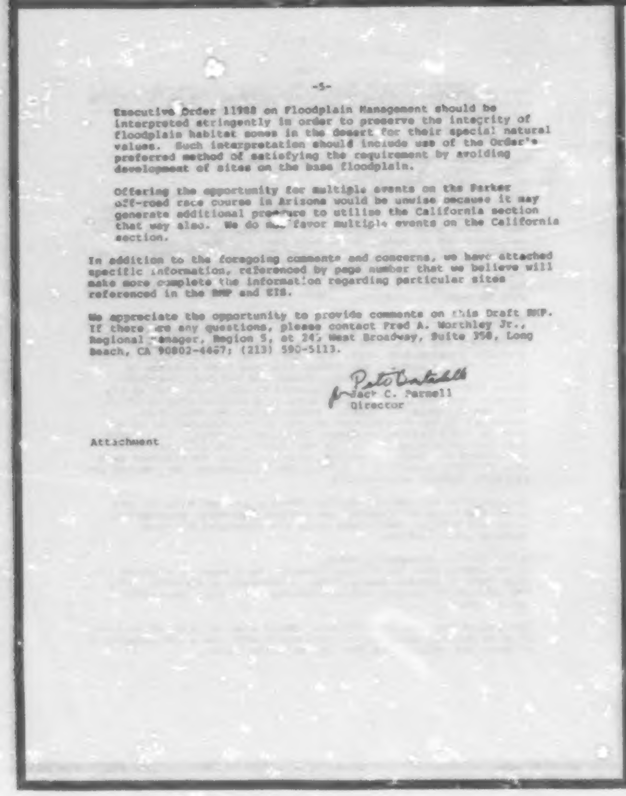
and Environmental Impact Statement

Chapter 3 - Affected Environment

P61. Whipple Mountains: The presence of mule deer in the Whipples should be noted. It should also be noted that deer numbers in the Whipples have seriously declined because of habitat losses near the Colorado River, primarily from development of a residential complex in an important summer concentration area.

P62. Big Maria Mountains: The last sentence in this section is incorrect. Bighorn sheep are no longer present in the Big Maria Mountains. However, it should be noted that because bighorn sheep historically occurred there, the Big Marias are a potential reintroduction site. It should also be noted that mule deer occur in the Big Marias but, due to habitat losses from agricultural and residential expansion along the Colorado River, their numbers have declined substantially.

P63. Add "burro deer" in discussion of both Milpitas Wash and Laguna-Martinez Unique Natural Area.



-5-

Executive Order 11988 on Floodplain Management should be interpreted stringently in order to preserve the integrity of floodplain habitat zones in the desert for their special natural values. Such interpretation should include use of the Order's preferred method of satisfying the requirement by avoiding development of sites on the base floodplain.

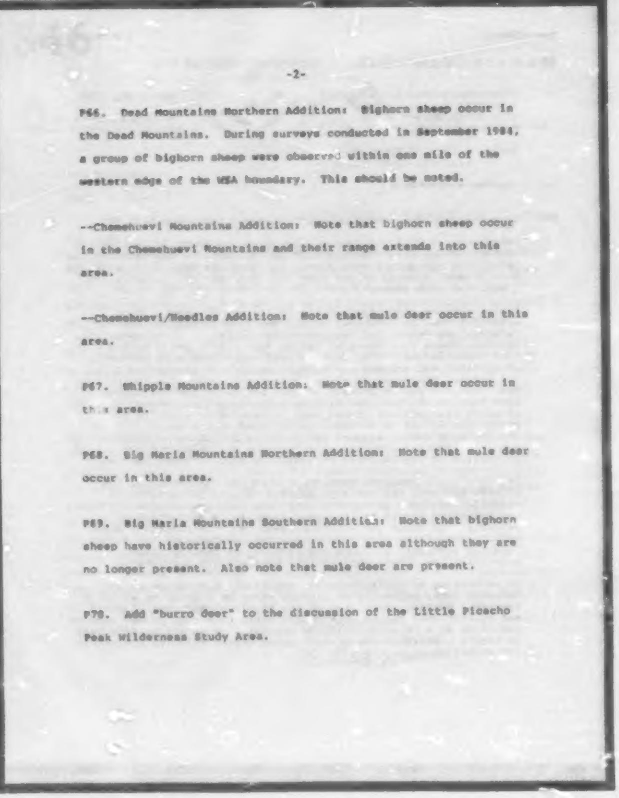
Offering the opportunity for multiple events on the Parker off-road race course in Arizona would be unwise because it may generate additional pressure to utilize the California section that way also. We do not favor multiple events on the California section.

In addition to the foregoing comments and concerns, we have attached specific information, referenced by page number that we believe will make more complete the information regarding particular sites referenced in the RMP and EIS.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on this Draft RMP. If there are any questions, please contact Fred A. Worthley Jr., Regional Manager, Region 5, at 245 West Broadway, Suite 350, Long Beach, CA 90802-4467; (213) 590-5113.

for Pete Bontadelli
Jack C. Parnell
Director

Attachment



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P66. Dead Mountains Northern Addition: Bighorn sheep occur in the Dead Mountains. During surveys conducted in September 1984, a group of bighorn sheep were observed within one mile of the western edge of the WSA boundary. This should be noted.

--Chemehuevi Mountains Addition: Note that bighorn sheep occur in the Chemehuevi Mountains and their range extends into this area.

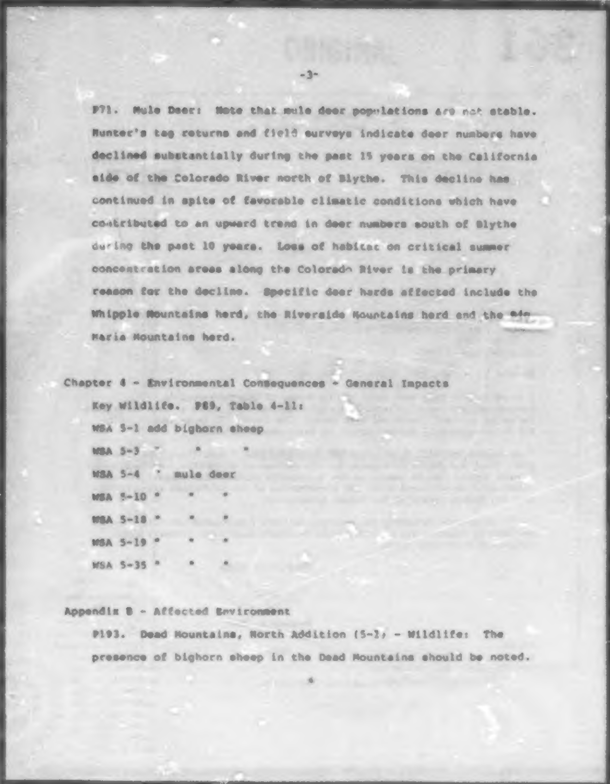
--Chemehuevi/Needles Addition: Note that mule deer occur in this area.

P67. Whipple Mountains Addition: Note that mule deer occur in this area.

P68. Big Maria Mountains Northern Addition: Note that mule deer occur in this area.

P69. Big Maria Mountains Southern Addition: Note that bighorn sheep have historically occurred in this area although they are no longer present. Also note that mule deer are present.

P70. Add "burro deer" to the discussion of the Little Picacho Peak Wilderness Study Area.



-3-

P71. Mule Deer: Note that mule deer populations are not stable. Hunter's tag returns and field surveys indicate deer numbers have declined substantially during the past 15 years on the California side of the Colorado River north of Blythe. This decline has continued in spite of favorable climatic conditions which have contributed to an upward trend in deer numbers south of Blythe during the past 10 years. Loss of habitat on critical summer concentration areas along the Colorado River is the primary reason for the decline. Specific deer herds affected include the Whipple Mountains herd, the Riverside Mountains herd and the Big Maria Mountains herd.

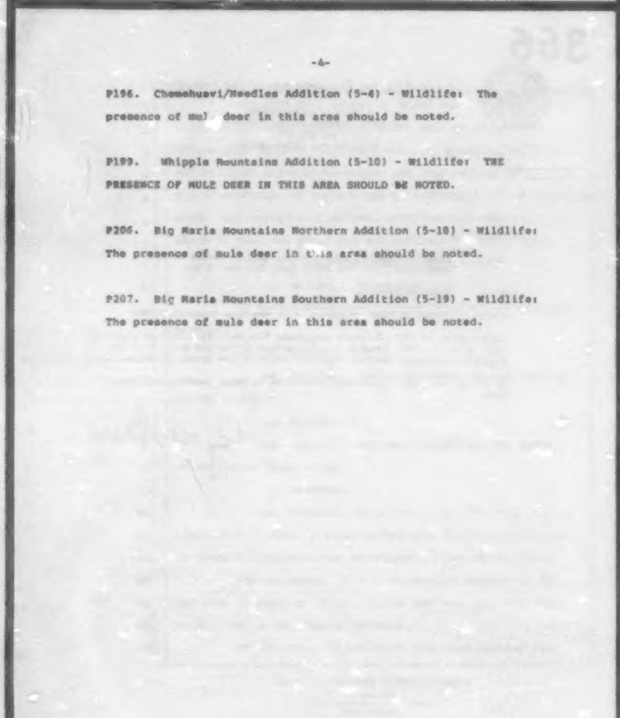
Chapter 4 - Environmental Consequences - General Impacts

Key Wildlife. P89, Table 4-11:

WSA 5-1 add bighorn sheep
WSA 5-3 " " "
WSA 5-4 " mule deer
WSA 5-10 " " "
WSA 5-18 " " "
WSA 5-19 " " "
WSA 5-35 " " "

Appendix B - Affected Environment

P193. Dead Mountains, North Addition (5-2) - Wildlife: The presence of bighorn sheep in the Dead Mountains should be noted.



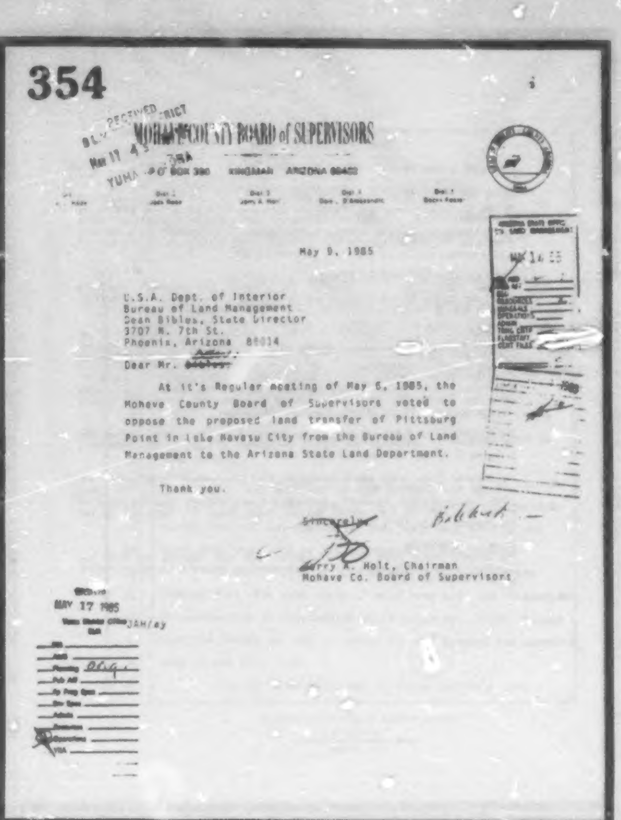
-4-

P196. Chemehuevi/Needles Addition (5-4) - Wildlife: The presence of mule deer in this area should be noted.

P199. Whipple Mountains Addition (5-10) - Wildlife: THE PRESENCE OF MULE DEER IN THIS AREA SHOULD BE NOTED.

P206. Big Maria Mountains Northern Addition (5-18) - Wildlife: The presence of mule deer in this area should be noted.

P207. Big Maria Mountains Southern Addition (5-19) - Wildlife: The presence of mule deer in this area should be noted.



354

RECEIVED BLM DISTRICT
YUMA

MOHAVE COUNTY BOARD of SUPERVISORS
P.O. BOX 390 KINGMAN ARIZONA

May 9, 1985

U.S.A. Dept. of Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Dean Bibles, State Director
3707 N. 7th St.
Phoenix, Arizona 85014

Dear Mr. [illegible]

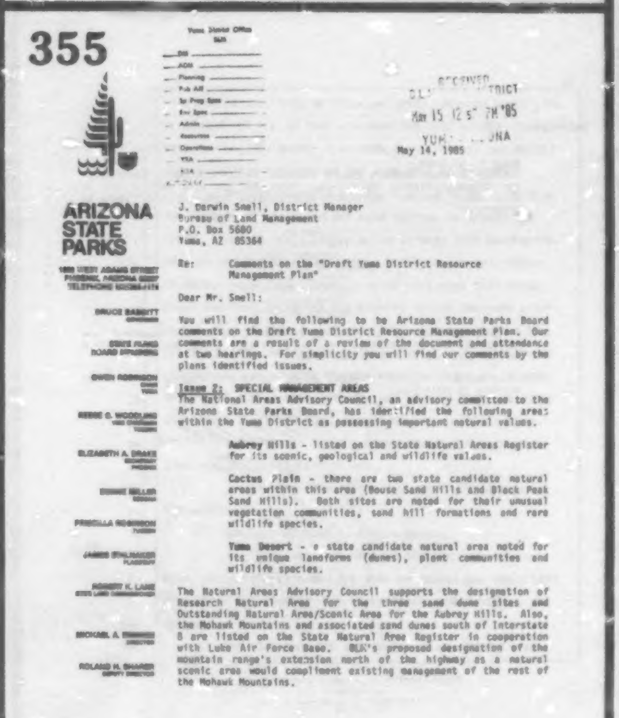
At it's Regular meeting of May 6, 1985, the Mohave County Board of Supervisors voted to oppose the proposed land transfer of Pittsburg Point in Lake Havasu City from the Bureau of Land Management to the Arizona State Land Department.

Thank you.

~~Sincerely,~~

Jerry A. Holt, Chairman
Mohave Co. Board of Supervisors

MAY 17 1985
JAH/ay



355

Yuma District Office
BLM

RECEIVED
May 15 12 57 PM '85
YUMA, ARIZONA

ARIZONA STATE PARKS

May 14, 1985

J. Darwin Snell, District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, AZ 85364

Re: Comments on the "Draft Yuma District Resource Management Plan"

Dear Mr. Snell:

You will find the following to be Arizona State Parks Board comments on the Draft Yuma District Resource Management Plan. Our comments are a result of a review of the document and attendance at two hearings. For simplicity you will find our comments by the plans identified issues.

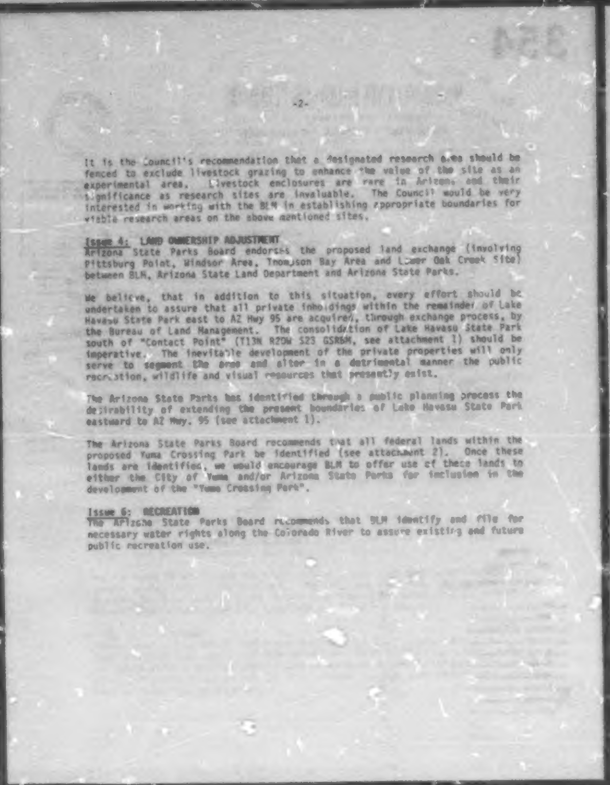
Issue 2: SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS
The National Areas Advisory Council, an advisory committee to the Arizona State Parks Board, has identified the following areas within the Yuma District as possessing important natural values.

Aubrey Hills - listed on the State Natural Areas Register for its scenic, geological and wildlife values.

Cactus Plain - there are two state candidate natural areas within this area (Bouse Sand Hills and Black Peak Sand Hills). Both sites are noted for their unusual vegetation communities, sand hill formations and rare wildlife species.

Yuma Desert - a state candidate natural area noted for its unique landforms (dunes), plant communities and wildlife species.

The Natural Areas Advisory Council supports the designation of Research Natural Area for the three sand dune sites and Outstanding Natural Area/Scenic Area for the Aubrey Hills. Also, the Mohawk Mountains and associated sand dunes south of Interstate 8 are listed on the State Natural Area Register in cooperation with Luke Air Force Base. BLM's proposed designation of the mountain range's extension north of the highway as a natural scenic area would compliment existing management of the rest of the Mohawk Mountains.



-2-

It is the Council's recommendation that a designated research area should be fenced to exclude livestock grazing to enhance the value of the site as an experimental area. Livestock enclosures are rare in Arizona and their significance as research sites are invaluable. The Council would be very interested in working with the BLM in establishing appropriate boundaries for viable research areas on the above mentioned sites.

Issue 4: LAND OWNERSHIP ADJUSTMENT
Arizona State Parks Board endorses the proposed land exchange (involving Pittsburg Point, Windsor Area, Thompson Bay Area and Lower Oak Creek Site) between BLM, Arizona State Land Department and Arizona State Parks.

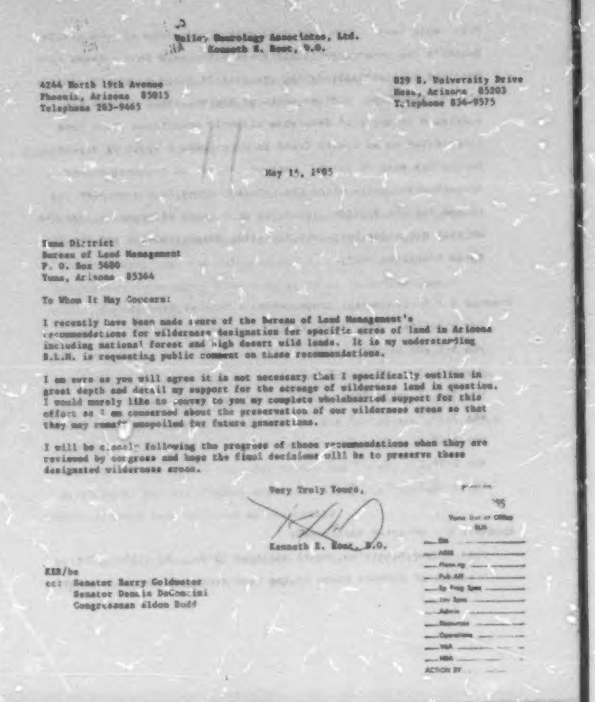
We believe, that in addition to this situation, every effort should be undertaken to assure that all private inholdings within the remainder of Lake Havasu State Park east to AZ Hwy 95 are acquired, through exchange process, by the Bureau of Land Management. The consolidation of Lake Havasu State Park south of "Contact Point" (T13N R20W S23 GSRBM, see attachment 1) should be imperative. The inevitable development of the private properties will only serve to segment the area and alter in a detrimental manner the public recreation, wildlife and visual resources that presently exist.

The Arizona State Parks has identified through a public planning process the desirability of extending the present boundaries of Lake Havasu State Park eastward to AZ Hwy. 95 (see attachment 1).

The Arizona State Parks Board recommends that all federal lands within the proposed Yuma Crossing Park be identified (see attachment 2). Once these lands are identified, we would encourage BLM to offer use of these lands to either the City of Yuma and/or Arizona State Parks for inclusion in the development of the "Yuma Crossing Park".

Issue 6: RECREATION
The Arizona State Parks Board recommends that BLM identify and file for necessary water rights along the Colorado River to assure existing and future public recreation use.

361



Valley Neurology Associates, Ltd.
Kenneth E. Root, D.O.

4264 North 19th Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85015
Telephone 263-9465

829 E. University Drive
Mesa, Arizona 85203
Telephone 834-9575

May 14, 1985

Yuma District
Bureau of Land Management
P. O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364

To Whom It May Concern:

I recently have been made aware of the Bureau of Land Management's recommendations for wilderness designation for specific acres of land in Arizona including national forest and high desert wild lands. It is my understanding B.L.M. is requesting public comment on these recommendations.

I am sure as you will agree it is not necessary that I specifically outline in great depth and detail my support for the acreage of wilderness land in question. I would merely like to convey to you my complete wholehearted support for this effort as I am concerned about the preservation of our wilderness areas so that they may remain unspoiled for future generations.

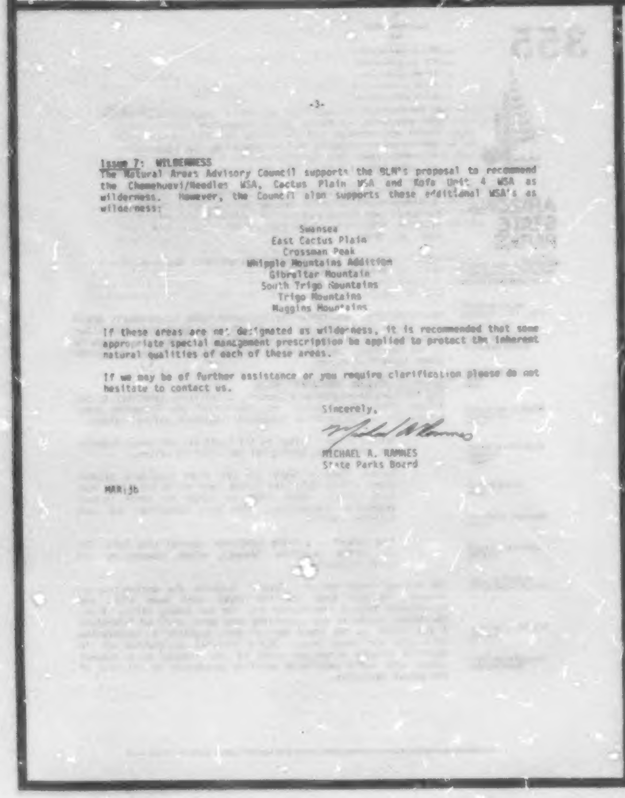
I will be closely following the progress of these recommendations when they are reviewed by congress and hope the final decisions will be to preserve these designated wilderness areas.

Very Truly Yours,

Kenneth E. Root, D.O.

KER/be
cc: Senator Barry Goldwater
Senator Dennis DeConcini
Congressman Eldon Rudd

'85
Yuma District Office
BLM
___ DM
___ ADM
___ Planning
___ Pub Aff
___ Sp Prog Spec
___ Env Spec
___ Admin
___ Resources
___ Operations
___ W&A
___ NRA
ACTION BY



-3-

Issue 7: WILDERNESS
The Natural Areas Advisory Council supports the BLM's proposal to recommend the Chemehuevi/Needles WSA, Cactus Plain WSA and Kofa Unit 4 WSA as wilderness. However, the Council also supports these additional WSA's as wilderness:

Swansea
East Cactus Plain
Crossman Peak
Whipple Mountains Addition
Gibraltar Mountain
South Trigo Mountains
Trigo Mountains
Muggins Mountains

If these areas are not designated as wilderness, it is recommended that some appropriate special management prescription be applied to protect the inherent natural qualities of each of these areas.

If we may be of further assistance or you require clarification please do not hesitate to contact us.

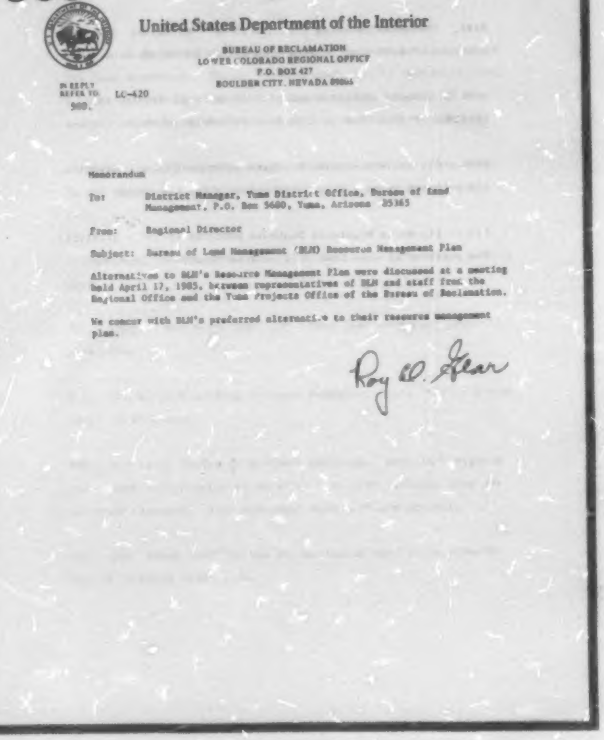
Sincerely,

Michael A. Ramnes

MICHAEL A. RAMNES
State Parks Board

MAR:jb

366



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
LOWER COLORADO REGIONAL OFFICE
P.O. BOX 427
BOULDER CITY, NEVADA 89005

IN REPLY REFER TO: LC-420
900.

Memorandum

To: District Manager, Yuma District Office, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 5680, Yuma, Arizona 85365

From: Regional Director

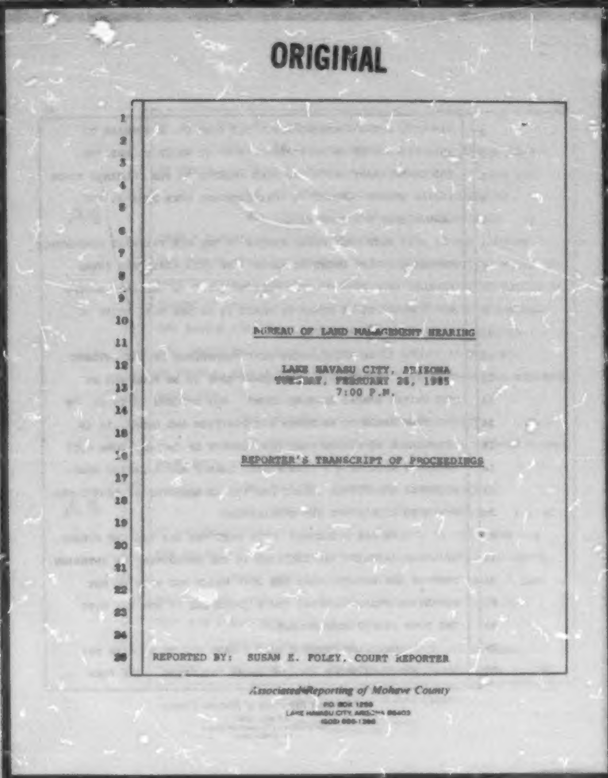
Subject: Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Resource Management Plan

Alternatives to BLM's Resource Management Plan were discussed at a meeting held April 17, 1985, between representatives of BLM and staff from the Regional Office and the Yuma Projects Office of the Bureau of Reclamation.

We concur with BLM's preferred alternative to their resource management plan.

Roy D. Gear

Public Hearing Transcripts



ORIGINAL

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT HEARING

LAKE HAVASU CITY, ARIZONA
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1985
7:00 P.M.

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

REPORTED BY: SUSAN E. FOLEY, COURT REPORTER

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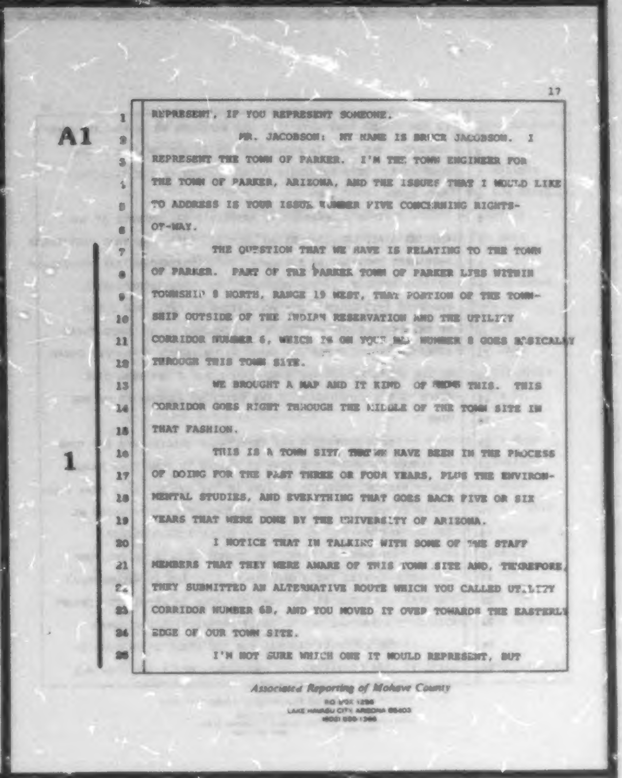
PO BOX 1296
LAKE HAVASU CITY ARIZONA 86403
(602) 855-1366



17

A1

REPRESENT, IF YOU REPRESENT SOMEONE.

MR. JACOBSON: MY NAME IS BRUCE JACOBSON. I REPRESENT THE TOWN OF PARKER. I'M THE TOWN ENGINEER FOR THE TOWN OF PARKER, ARIZONA, AND THE ISSUES THAT I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS IS YOUR ISSUE NUMBER FIVE CONCERNING RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

1

THE QUESTION THAT WE HAVE IS RELATING TO THE TOWN OF PARKER. PART OF THE PARKER TOWN OF PARKER LIES WITHIN TOWNSHIP 8 NORTH, RANGE 19 WEST, THAT PORTION OF THE TOWNSHIP OUTSIDE OF THE INDIAN RESERVATION AND THE UTILITY CORRIDOR NUMBER 6, WHICH IS ON YOUR MAP NUMBER 8 GOES BASICALLY THROUGH THIS TOWN SITE.

WE BROUGHT A MAP AND IT KIND OF SHOWS THIS. THIS CORRIDOR GOES RIGHT THROUGH THE MIDDLE OF THE TOWN SITE IN THAT FASHION.

THIS IS A TOWN SITE THAT WE HAVE BEEN IN THE PROCESS OF DOING FOR THE PAST THREE OR FOUR YEARS, PLUS THE ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES, AND EVERYTHING THAT GOES BACK FIVE OR SIX YEARS THAT WERE DONE BY THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA.

I NOTICE THAT IN TALKING WITH SOME OF THE STAFF MEMBERS THAT THEY WERE AWARE OF THIS TOWN SITE AND, THEREFORE, THEY SUBMITTED AN ALTERNATIVE ROUTE WHICH YOU CALLED UTILITY CORRIDOR NUMBER 6B, AND YOU MOVED IT OVER TOWARDS THE EASTERLY EDGE OF OUR TOWN SITE.

I'M NOT SURE WHICH ONE IT WOULD REPRESENT, BUT

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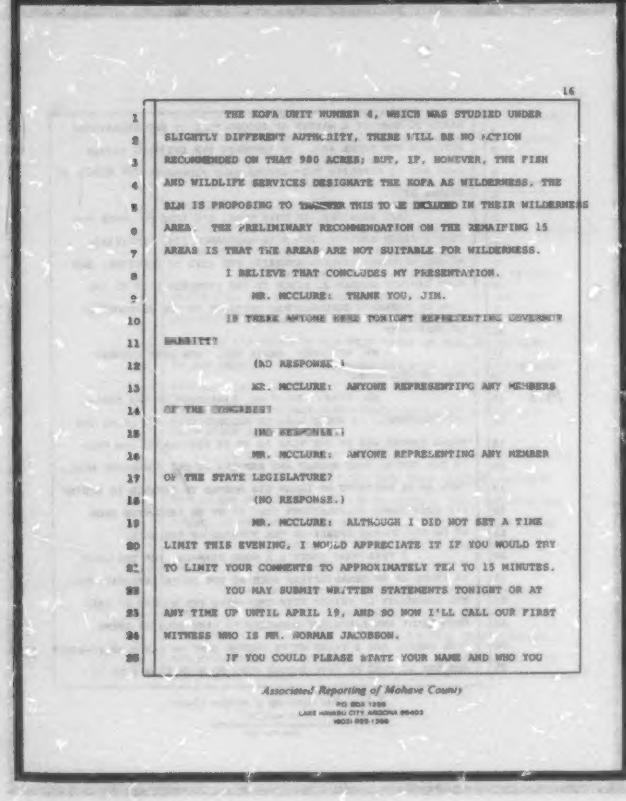

16

THE KOFA UNIT NUMBER 4, WHICH WAS STUDIED UNDER SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT AUTHORITY, THERE WILL BE NO ACTION RECOMMENDED ON THAT 980 ACRES; BUT, IF, HOWEVER, THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICES DESIGNATE THE KOFA AS WILDERNESS, THE BLM IS PROPOSING TO TRANSFER THIS TO BE INCLUDED IN THEIR WILDERNESS AREA. THE PRELIMINARY RECOMMENDATION ON THE REMAINING 15 AREAS IS THAT THE AREAS ARE NOT SUITABLE FOR WILDERNESS.

I BELIEVE THAT CONCLUDES MY PRESENTATION.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU, JIM.

IS THERE ANYONE HERE TONIGHT REPRESENTING GOVERNOR BABBITT?

(NO RESPONSE.)

MR. MCCLURE: ANYONE REPRESENTING ANY MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS?

(NO RESPONSE.)

MR. MCCLURE: ANYONE REPRESENTING ANY MEMBER OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE?

(NO RESPONSE.)

MR. MCCLURE: ALTHOUGH I DID NOT SET A TIME LIMIT THIS EVENING, I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD TRY TO LIMIT YOUR COMMENTS TO APPROXIMATELY TEN TO 15 MINUTES.

YOU MAY SUBMIT WRITTEN STATEMENTS TONIGHT OR AT ANY TIME UP UNTIL APRIL 19, AND SO NOW I'LL CALL OUR FIRST WITNESS WHO IS MR. NORMAN JACOBSON.

IF YOU COULD PLEASE STATE YOUR NAME AND WHO YOU

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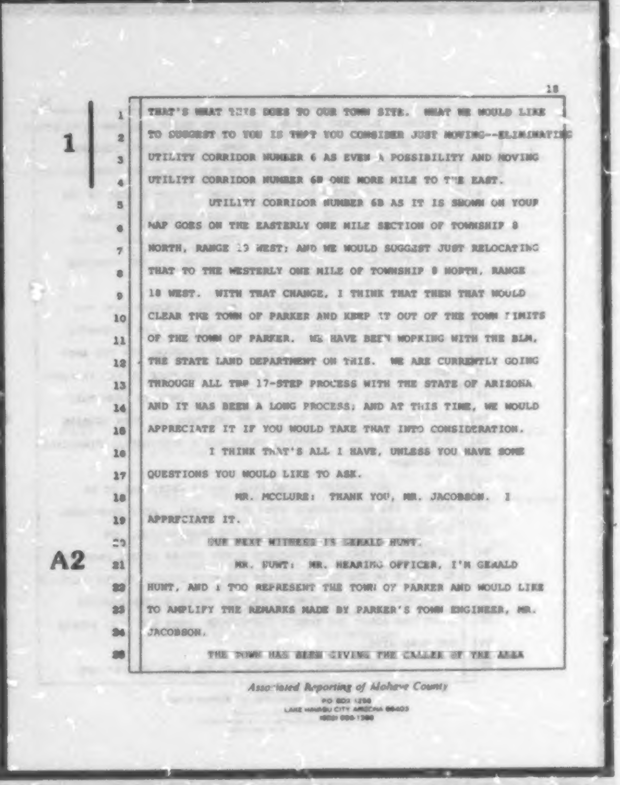

18

1

THAT'S WHAT THIS DOES TO OUR TOWN SITE. WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST TO YOU IS THAT YOU CONSIDER JUST MOVING--ELIMINATING UTILITY CORRIDOR NUMBER 6 AS EVEN A POSSIBILITY AND MOVING UTILITY CORRIDOR NUMBER 6B ONE MORE MILE TO THE EAST.

UTILITY CORRIDOR NUMBER 6B AS IT IS SHOWN ON YOUR MAP GOES ON THE EASTERLY ONE MILE SECTION OF TOWNSHIP 8 NORTH, RANGE 19 WEST; AND WE WOULD SUGGEST JUST RELOCATING THAT TO THE WESTERLY ONE MILE OF TOWNSHIP 8 NORTH, RANGE 18 WEST. WITH THAT CHANGE, I THINK THAT THEN THAT WOULD CLEAR THE TOWN OF PARKER AND KEEP IT OUT OF THE TOWN LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF PARKER. WE HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH THE BLM, THE STATE LAND DEPARTMENT ON THIS. WE ARE CURRENTLY GOING THROUGH ALL THE 17-STEP PROCESS WITH THE STATE OF ARIZONA AND IT HAS BEEN A LONG PROCESS; AND AT THIS TIME, WE WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD TAKE THAT INTO CONSIDERATION.

I THINK THAT'S ALL I HAVE, UNLESS YOU HAVE SOME QUESTIONS YOU WOULD LIKE TO ASK.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU, MR. JACOBSON. I APPRECIATE IT.

OUR NEXT WITNESS IS GERALD HUNT.

A2

MR. HUNT: MR. HEARING OFFICER, I'M GERALD HUNT, AND I TOO REPRESENT THE TOWN OF PARKER AND WOULD LIKE TO AMPLIFY THE REMARKS MADE BY PARKER'S TOWN ENGINEER, MR. JACOBSON.

THE TOWN HAS BEEN GIVING THE CALLER OF THE AREA

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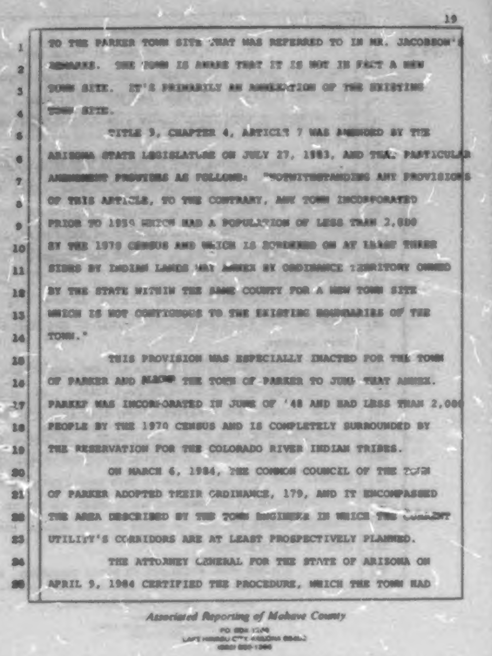

19

TO THE PARKER TOWN SITE THAT WAS REFERRED TO IN MR. JACOBSON'S REMARKS. THE TOWN IS AWARE THAT IT IS NOT IN FACT A NEW TOWN SITE. IT'S PRIMARILY AN ANNEXATION OF THE EXISTING TOWN SITE.

TITLE 9, CHAPTER 4, ARTICLE 7 WAS AMENDED BY THE ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE ON JULY 27, 1983, AND THAT PARTICULAR AMENDMENT PROVIDES AS FOLLOWS: "NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISIONS OF THIS ARTICLE, TO THE CONTRARY, ANY TOWN INCORPORATED PRIOR TO 1950 WHICH HAD A POPULATION OF LESS THAN 2,000 BY THE 1970 CENSUS AND WHICH IS BORDERED ON AT LEAST THREE SIDES BY INDIAN LANDS MAY ANNEX BY ORDINANCE TERRITORY OWNED BY THE STATE WITHIN THE SAME COUNTY FOR A NEW TOWN SITE WHICH IS NOT CONTIGUOUS TO THE EXISTING BOUNDARIES OF THE TOWN."

THIS PROVISION WAS ESPECIALLY ENACTED FOR THE TOWN OF PARKER AND ALLOW THE TOWN OF PARKER TO JUMP THAT ANNEX. PARKER WAS INCORPORATED IN JUNE OF '48 AND HAD LESS THAN 2,000 PEOPLE BY THE 1970 CENSUS AND IS COMPLETELY SURROUNDED BY THE RESERVATION FOR THE COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES.

ON MARCH 6, 1984, THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF PARKER ADOPTED THEIR ORDINANCE, 179, AND IT ENCOMPASSED THE AREA DESCRIBED BY THE TOWN ENGINEER IN WHICH THE CURRENT UTILITY'S CORRIDORS ARE AT LEAST PROSPECTIVELY PLANNED.

THE ATTORNEY GENERAL FOR THE STATE OF ARIZONA ON APRIL 9, 1984 CERTIFIED THE PROCEDURE, WHICH THE TOWN HAD

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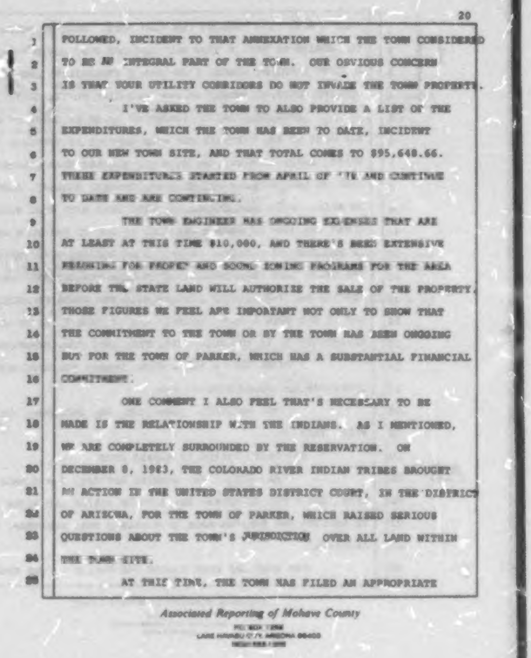
1



20

FOLLOWED, INCIDENT TO THAT ANNEXATION WHICH THE TOWN CONSIDERED TO BE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE TOWN. OUR OBVIOUS CONCERN IS THAT YOUR UTILITY CORRIDORS DO NOT INVADE THE TOWN PROPERTY.

I'VE ASKED THE TOWN TO ALSO PROVIDE A LIST OF THE EXPENDITURES, WHICH THE TOWN HAS BEEN TO DATE, INCIDENT TO OUR NEW TOWN SITE, AND THAT TOTAL COMES TO $95,648.66. THESE EXPENDITURES STARTED FROM APRIL OF '78 AND CONTINUE TO DATE AND ARE CONTINUING.

THE TOWN ENGINEER HAS ONGOING EXPENSES THAT ARE AT LEAST AT THIS TIME $10,000, AND THERE'S BEEN EXTENSIVE PLANNING FOR PROPER AND SOUND ZONING PROGRAMS FOR THE AREA BEFORE THE STATE LAND WILL AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF THE PROPERTY. THOSE FIGURES WE FEEL ARE IMPORTANT NOT ONLY TO SHOW THAT THE COMMITMENT TO THE TOWN OR BY THE TOWN HAS BEEN ONGOING BUT FOR THE TOWN OF PARKER, WHICH HAS A SUBSTANTIAL FINANCIAL COMMITMENT.

ONE COMMENT I ALSO FEEL THAT'S NECESSARY TO BE MADE IS THE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE INDIANS. AS I MENTIONED, WE ARE COMPLETELY SURROUNDED BY THE RESERVATION. ON DECEMBER 8, 1983, THE COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES BROUGHT AN ACTION IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT, IN THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA, FOR THE TOWN OF PARKER, WHICH RAISED SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TOWN'S JURISDICTION OVER ALL LAND WITHIN THE TOWN SITE.

AT THIS TIME, THE TOWN HAS FILED AN APPROPRIATE

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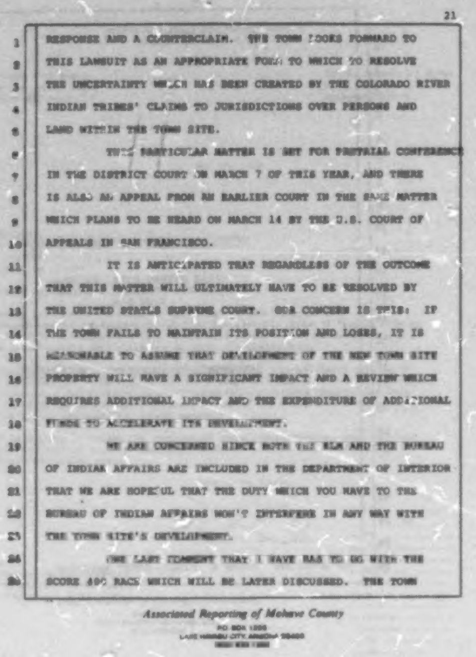

21

RESPONSE AND A COUNTERCLAIM. THE TOWN LOOKS FORWARD TO THIS LAWSUIT AS AN APPROPRIATE FORUM TO WHICH TO RESOLVE THE UNCERTAINTY WHICH HAS BEEN CREATED BY THE COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES' CLAIMS TO JURISDICTIONS OVER PERSONS AND LAND WITHIN THE TOWN SITE.

THIS PARTICULAR MATTER IS SET FOR PRETRIAL CONFERENCE IN THE DISTRICT COURT ON MARCH 7 OF THIS YEAR, AND THERE IS ALSO AN APPEAL FROM AN EARLIER COURT IN THE SAME MATTER WHICH PLANS TO BE HEARD ON MARCH 14 BY THE U.S. COURT OF APPEALS IN SAN FRANCISCO.

IT IS ANTICIPATED THAT REGARDLESS OF THE OUTCOME THAT THIS MATTER WILL ULTIMATELY HAVE TO BE RESOLVED BY THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT. OUR CONCERN IS THIS: IF THE TOWN FAILS TO MAINTAIN ITS POSITION AND LOSES, IT IS REASONABLE TO ASSUME THAT DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW TOWN SITE PROPERTY WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND A REVIEW WHICH REQUIRES ADDITIONAL IMPACT AND THE EXPENDITURE OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS TO ACCELERATE ITS DEVELOPMENT.

WE ARE CONCERNED SINCE BOTH THE BLM AND THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS ARE INCLUDED IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR THAT WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT THE DUTY WHICH YOU HAVE TO THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS WON'T INTERFERE IN ANY WAY WITH THE TOWN SITE'S DEVELOPMENT.

ONE LAST COMMENT THAT I HAVE HAS TO DO WITH THE SCORE 400 RACE WHICH WILL BE LATER DISCUSSED. THE TOWN

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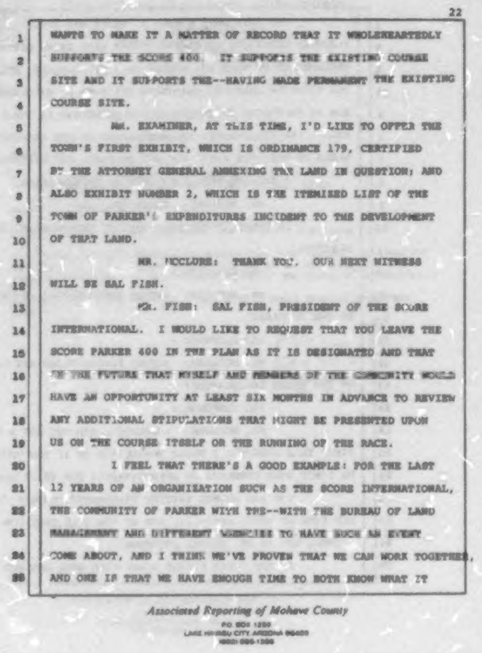
A3



22

WANTS TO MAKE IT A MATTER OF RECORD THAT IT WHOLEHEARTEDLY SUPPORTS THE SCORE 400. IT SUPPORTS THE EXISTING COURSE SITE AND IT SUPPORTS THE--HAVING MADE PERMANENT THE EXISTING COURSE SITE.

MR. EXAMINER, AT THIS TIME, I'D LIKE TO OFFER THE TOWN'S FIRST EXHIBIT, WHICH IS ORDINANCE 179, CERTIFIED BY THE ATTORNEY GENERAL ANNEXING THE LAND IN QUESTION; AND ALSO EXHIBIT NUMBER 2, WHICH IS THE ITEMIZED LIST OF THE TOWN OF PARKER'S EXPENDITURES INCIDENT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THAT LAND.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. OUR NEXT WITNESS WILL BE SAL FISH.

MR. FISH: SAL FISH, PRESIDENT OF THE SCORE INTERNATIONAL. I WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST THAT YOU LEAVE THE SCORE PARKER 400 IN THE PLAN AS IT IS DESIGNATED AND THAT IN THE FUTURE THAT MYSELF AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY WOULD HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY AT LEAST SIX MONTHS IN ADVANCE TO REVIEW ANY ADDITIONAL STIPULATIONS THAT MIGHT BE PRESENTED UPON US ON THE COURSE ITSELF OR THE RUNNING OF THE RACE.

I FEEL THAT THERE'S A GOOD EXAMPLE: FOR THE LAST 12 YEARS OF AN ORGANIZATION SUCH AS THE SCORE INTERNATIONAL, THE COMMUNITY OF PARKER WITH THE--WITH THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND DIFFERENT AGENCIES TO HAVE SUCH AN EVENT COME ABOUT, AND I THINK WE'VE PROVEN THAT WE CAN WORK TOGETHER, AND ONE IS THAT WE HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO BOTH KNOW WHAT IT

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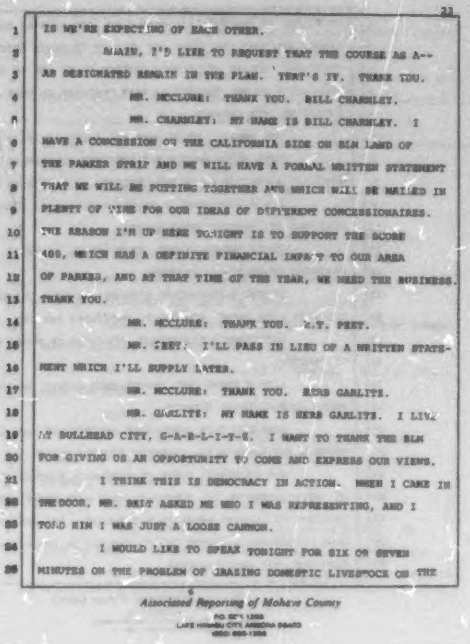

23

IS WE'RE EXPECTING OF EACH OTHER.

AGAIN, I'D LIKE TO REQUEST THAT THE COURSE AS A-- AS DESIGNATED REMAIN IN THE PLAN. THAT'S IT. THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. BILL CHARNLEY.

A4

MR. CHARNLEY: MY NAME IS BILL CHARNLEY. I HAVE A CONCESSION ON THE CALIFORNIA SIDE ON BLM LAND OF THE PARKER STRIP AND WE WILL HAVE A FORMAL WRITTEN STATEMENT THAT WE WILL BE PUTTING TOGETHER AND WHICH WILL BE MAILED IN PLENTY OF TIME FOR OUR IDEAS OF DIFFERENT CONCESSIONAIRES. THE REASON I'M UP HERE TONIGHT IS TO SUPPORT THE SCORE 400, WHICH HAS A DEFINITE FINANCIAL IMPACT TO OUR AREA OF PARKER, AND AT THAT TIME OF THE YEAR, WE NEED THE BUSINESS. THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. R.T. PEET.

MR. PEET: I'LL PASS IN LIEU OF A WRITTEN STATEMENT WHICH I'LL SUPPLY LATER.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. HERB GARLITZ.

A5

MR. GARLITZ: MY NAME IS HERB GARLITZ. I LIVE AT BULLHEAD CITY, G-A-R-L-I-T-Z. I WANT TO THANK THE BLM FOR GIVING US AN OPPORTUNITY TO COME AND EXPRESS OUR VIEWS.

I THINK THIS IS DEMOCRACY IN ACTION. WHEN I CAME IN THE DOOR, MR. BRIT ASKED ME WHO I WAS REPRESENTING, AND I TOLD HIM I WAS JUST A LOOSE CANNON.

I WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK TONIGHT FOR SIX OR SEVEN MINUTES ON THE PROBLEM OF GRAZING DOMESTIC LIVESTOCK ON THE

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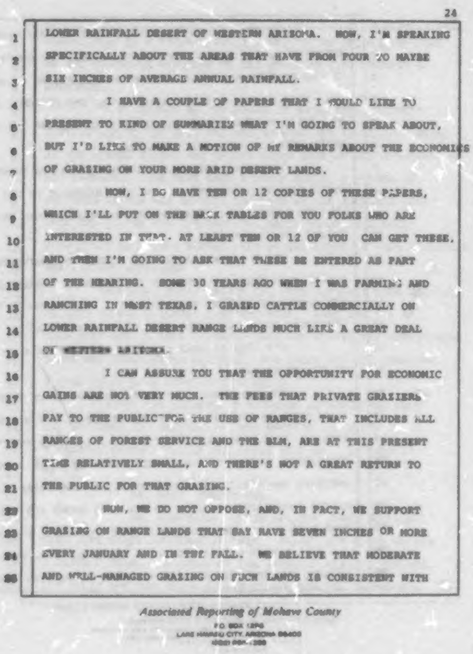
LAKE HAVASU CITY, ARIZONA 86403
(602) 680-1366



24

LOWER RAINFALL DESERT OF WESTERN ARIZONA. NOW, I'M SPEAKING SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE AREAS THAT HAVE FROM FOUR TO MAYBE SIX INCHES OF AVERAGE ANNUAL RAINFALL.

I HAVE A COUPLE OF PAPERS THAT I WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT TO KIND OF SUMMARIZE WHAT I'M GOING TO SPEAK ABOUT, BUT I'D LIKE TO MAKE A MOTION OF MY REMARKS ABOUT THE ECONOMICS OF GRAZING ON YOUR MORE ARID DESERT LANDS.

NOW, I DO HAVE TEN OR 12 COPIES OF THESE PAPERS, WHICH I'LL PUT ON THE BACK TABLES FOR YOU FOLKS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THAT. AT LEAST TEN OR 12 OF YOU CAN GET THESE, AND THEN I'M GOING TO ASK THAT THESE BE ENTERED AS PART OF THE HEARING. SOME 30 YEARS AGO WHEN I WAS FARMING AND RANCHING IN WEST TEXAS, I GRAZED CATTLE COMMERCIALLY ON LOWER RAINFALL DESERT RANGE LANDS MUCH LIKE A GREAT DEAL OF WESTERN ARIZONA.

I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT THE OPPORTUNITY FOR ECONOMIC GAINS ARE NOT VERY MUCH. THE FEES THAT PRIVATE GRAZIERS PAY TO THE PUBLIC FOR THE USE OF RANGES, THAT INCLUDES ALL RANGES OF FOREST SERVICE AND THE BLM, ARE AT THIS PRESENT TIME RELATIVELY SMALL, AND THERE'S NOT A GREAT RETURN TO THE PUBLIC FOR THAT GRAZING.

NOW, WE DO NOT OPPOSE, AND, IN FACT, WE SUPPORT GRAZING ON RANGE LANDS THAT SAY HAVE SEVEN INCHES OR MORE EVERY JANUARY AND IN THE FALL. WE BELIEVE THAT MODERATE AND WELL-MANAGED GRAZING ON SUCH LANDS IS CONSISTENT WITH

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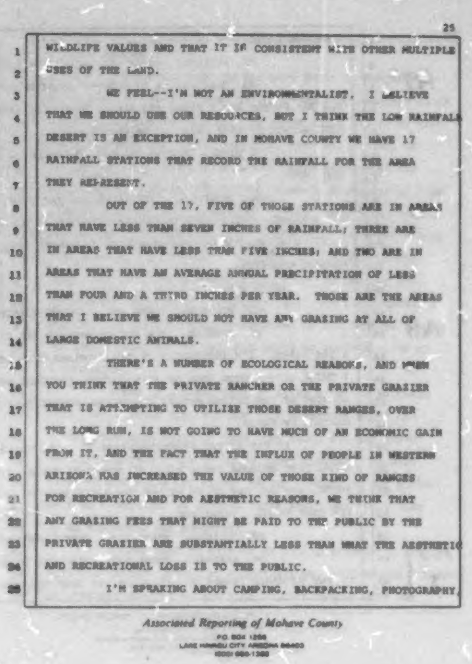

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WILDLIFE VALUES AND THAT IT IS CONSISTENT WITH OTHER MULTIPLE USES OF THE LAND.

WE FEEL--I'M NOT AN ENVIRONMENTALIST. I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD USE OUR RESOURCES, BUT I THINK THE LOW RAINFALL DESERT IS AN EXCEPTION, AND IN MOHAVE COUNTY WE HAVE 17 RAINFALL STATIONS THAT RECORD THE RAINFALL FOR THE AREA THEY REPRESENT.

OUT OF THE 17, FIVE OF THOSE STATIONS ARE IN AREAS THAT HAVE LESS THAN SEVEN INCHES OF RAINFALL; THREE ARE IN AREAS THAT HAVE LESS THAN FIVE INCHES; AND TWO ARE IN AREAS THAT HAVE AN AVERAGE ANNUAL PRECIPITATION OF LESS THAN FOUR AND A THIRD INCHES PER YEAR. THOSE ARE THE AREAS THAT I BELIEVE WE SHOULD NOT HAVE ANY GRAZING AT ALL OF LARGE DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

T2

THERE'S A NUMBER OF ECOLOGICAL REASONS, AND WHEN YOU THINK THAT THE PRIVATE RANCHER OR THE PRIVATE GRAZIER THAT IS ATTEMPTING TO UTILIZE THOSE DESERT RANGES, OVER THE LONG RUN, IS NOT GOING TO HAVE MUCH OF AN ECONOMIC GAIN FROM IT, AND THE FACT THAT THE INFLUX OF PEOPLE IN WESTERN ARIZONA HAS INCREASED THE VALUE OF THOSE KIND OF RANGES FOR RECREATION AND FOR AESTHETIC REASONS, WE THINK THAT ANY GRAZING FEES THAT MIGHT BE PAID TO THE PUBLIC BY THE PRIVATE GRAZIER ARE SUBSTANTIALLY LESS THAN WHAT THE AESTHETIC AND RECREATIONAL LOSS IS TO THE PUBLIC.

I'M SPEAKING ABOUT CAMPING, BACKPACKING, PHOTOGRAPHY,

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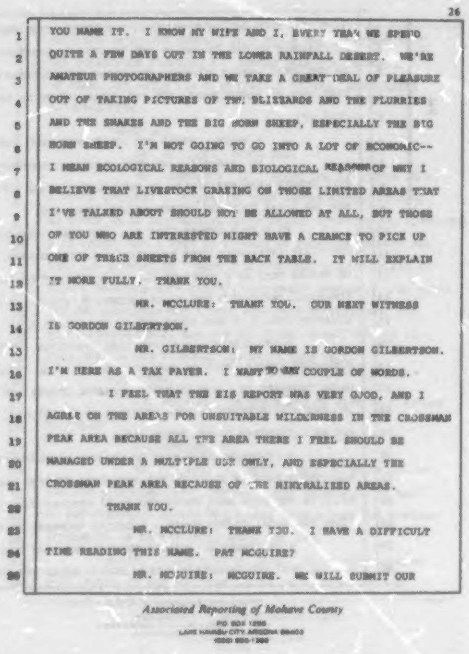

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YOU NAME IT. I KNOW MY WIFE AND I, EVERY YEAR WE SPEND QUITE A FEW DAYS OUT IN THE LOWER RAINFALL DESERT. WE'RE AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHERS AND WE TAKE A GREAT DEAL OF PLEASURE OUT OF TAKING PICTURES OF THE BLIZZARDS AND THE FLURRIES AND THE SNAKES AND THE BIG HORN SHEEP, ESPECIALLY THE BIG HORN SHEEP. I'M NOT GOING TO GO INTO A LOT OF ECONOMIC-- I MEAN ECOLOGICAL REASONS AND BIOLOGICAL REASONS OF WHY I BELIEVE THAT LIVESTOCK GRAZING ON THOSE LIMITED AREAS THAT I'VE TALKED ABOUT SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED AT ALL, BUT THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE INTERESTED MIGHT HAVE A CHANCE TO PICK UP ONE OF THESE SHEETS FROM THE BACK TABLE. IT WILL EXPLAIN IT MORE FULLY. THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. OUR NEXT WITNESS IS GORDON GILBERTSON.

A6

MR. GILBERTSON: MY NAME IS GORDON GILBERTSON. I'M HERE AS A TAX PAYER. I WANT TO SAY COUPLE OF WORDS.

I FEEL THAT THE EIS REPORT WAS VERY GOOD, AND I AGREE ON THE AREAS FOR UNSUITABLE WILDERNESS IN THE CROSSMAN PEAK AREA BECAUSE ALL THE AREA THERE I FEEL SHOULD BE MANAGED UNDER A MULTIPLE USE ONLY, AND ESPECIALLY THE CROSSMAN PEAK AREA BECAUSE OF THE MINERALIZED AREAS.

THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. I HAVE A DIFFICULT TIME READING THIS NAME. PAT MCGUIRE?

MR. MCGUIRE: MCGUIRE. WE WILL SUBMIT OUR

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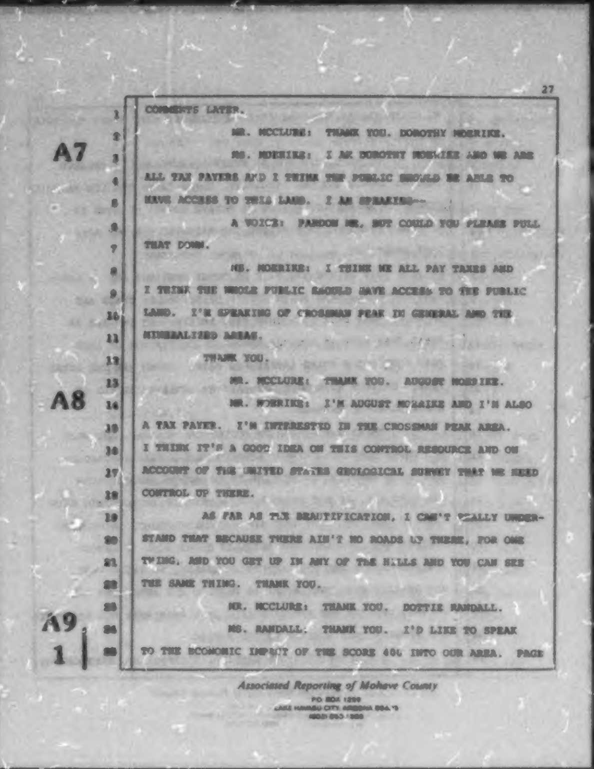


COMMENTS LATER.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. DOROTHY MOERIKE.

A7 MS. MOERIKE: I AM DOROTHY MOERIKE AND WE ARE ALL TAX PAYERS AND I THINK THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE ABLE TO HAVE ACCESS TO THIS LAND. I AM SPEAKING--

A VOICE: PARDON ME, BUT COULD YOU PLEASE PULL THAT DOWN.

MS. MOERIKE: I THINK WE ALL PAY TAXES AND I THINK THE WHOLE PUBLIC SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO THE PUBLIC LAND. I'M SPEAKING OF CROSSMAN PEAK IN GENERAL AND THE MINERALIZED AREAS.

THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. AUGUST MOERIKE.

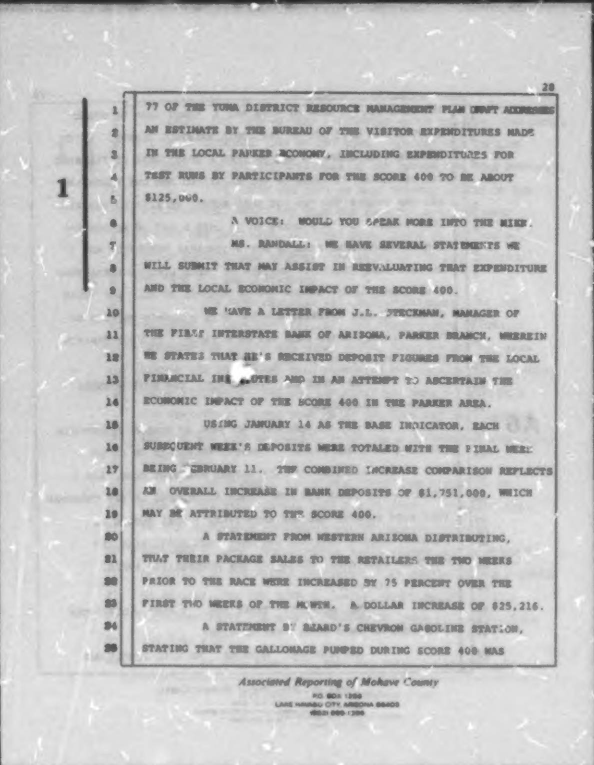
A8 MR. MOERIKE: I'M AUGUST MOERIKE AND I'M ALSO A TAX PAYER. I'M INTERESTED IN THE CROSSMAN PEAK AREA. I THINK IT'S A GOOD IDEA ON THIS CONTROL RESOURCE AND ON ACCOUNT OF THE UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY THAT WE NEED CONTROL UP THERE.

AS FAR AS THE BEAUTIFICATION, I CAN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND THAT BECAUSE THERE AIN'T NO ROADS UP THERE, FOR ONE THING, AND YOU GET UP IN ANY OF THE HILLS AND YOU CAN SEE THE SAME THING. THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. DOTTIE RANDALL.

A9 MS. RANDALL: THANK YOU. I'D LIKE TO SPEAK

1 TO THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE SCORE 400 INTO OUR AREA. PAGE



1 77 OF THE YUMA DISTRICT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN DRAFT ADDRESSES AN ESTIMATE BY THE BUREAU OF THE VISITOR EXPENDITURES MADE IN THE LOCAL PARKER ECONOMY, INCLUDING EXPENDITURES FOR TEST RUNS BY PARTICIPANTS FOR THE SCORE 400 TO BE ABOUT $125,000.

A VOICE: WOULD YOU SPEAK MORE INTO THE MIKE.

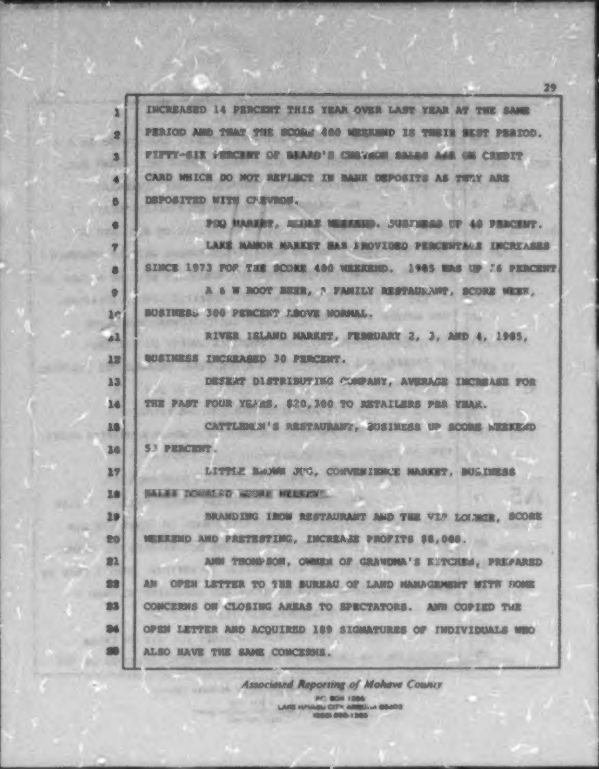
MS. RANDALL: WE HAVE SEVERAL STATEMENTS WE WILL SUBMIT THAT MAY ASSIST IN REEVALUATING THAT EXPENDITURE AND THE LOCAL ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE SCORE 400.

WE HAVE A LETTER FROM J.L. STECKMAN, MANAGER OF THE FIRST INTERSTATE BANK OF ARIZONA, PARKER BRANCH, WHEREIN HE STATES THAT HE'S RECEIVED DEPOSIT FIGURES FROM THE LOCAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTES AND IN AN ATTEMPT TO ASCERTAIN THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF THE SCORE 400 IN THE PARKER AREA.

USING JANUARY 14 AS THE BASE INDICATOR, EACH SUBSEQUENT WEEK'S DEPOSITS WERE TOTALED WITH THE FINAL WEEK BEING FEBRUARY 11. THE COMBINED INCREASE COMPARISON REFLECTS AN OVERALL INCREASE IN BANK DEPOSITS OF $1,751,000, WHICH MAY BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE SCORE 400.

A STATEMENT FROM WESTERN ARIZONA DISTRIBUTING, THAT THEIR PACKAGE SALES TO THE RETAILERS THE TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE RACE WERE INCREASED BY 75 PERCENT OVER THE FIRST TWO WEEKS OF THE MONTH. A DOLLAR INCREASE OF $25,216.

A STATEMENT BY BEARD'S CHEVRON GASOLINE STATION, STATING THAT THE GALLONAGE PUMPED DURING SCORE 400 WAS



INCREASED 14 PERCENT THIS YEAR OVER LAST YEAR AT THE SAME PERIOD AND THAT THE SCORE 400 WEEKEND IS THEIR BEST PERIOD. FIFTY-SIX PERCENT OF BEARD'S CHEVRON SALES ARE ON CREDIT CARD WHICH DO NOT REFLECT IN BANK DEPOSITS AS THEY ARE DEPOSITED WITH CHEVRON.

PDQ MARKET, SCORE WEEKEND. BUSINESS UP 40 PERCENT.

LAKE MANOR MARKET HAS PROVIDED PERCENTAGE INCREASES SINCE 1973 FOR THE SCORE 400 WEEKEND. 1985 WAS UP [illegible]6 PERCENT.

A & W ROOT BEER, A FAMILY RESTAURANT, SCORE WEEK, BUSINESS 300 PERCENT ABOVE NORMAL.

RIVER ISLAND MARKET, FEBRUARY 2, 3, AND 4, 1985, BUSINESS INCREASED 30 PERCENT.

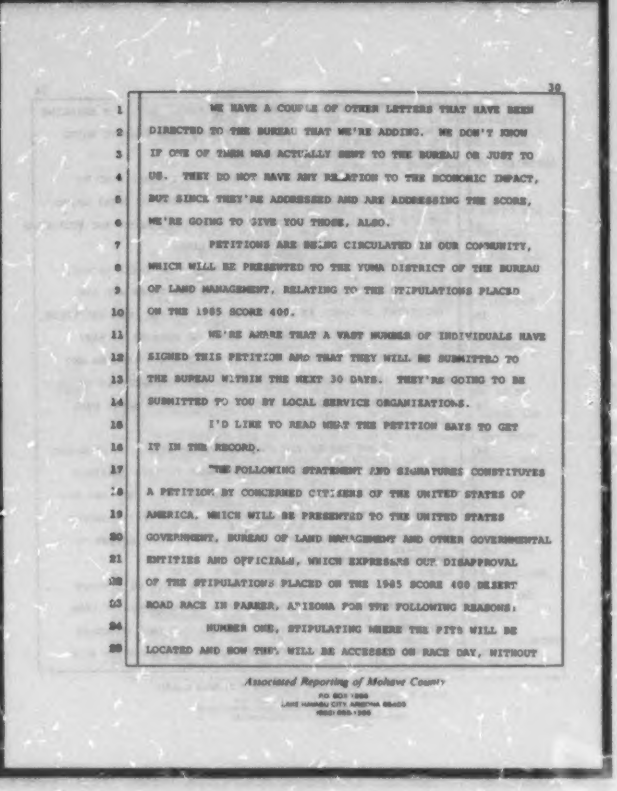
DESERT DISTRIBUTING COMPANY, AVERAGE INCREASE FOR THE PAST FOUR YEARS, $20,300 TO RETAILERS PER YEAR.

CATTLEMAN'S RESTAURANT, BUSINESS UP SCORE WEEKEND 53 PERCENT.

LITTLE BROWN JUG, CONVENIENCE MARKET, BUSINESS SALES DOUBLED SCORE WEEKEND.

BRANDING IRON RESTAURANT AND THE VIP LOUNGE, SCORE WEEKEND AND PRETESTING, INCREASE PROFITS $8,000.

ANN THOMPSON, OWNER OF GRANDMA'S KITCHEN, PREPARED AN OPEN LETTER TO THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WITH SOME CONCERNS ON CLOSING AREAS TO SPECTATORS. ANN COPIED THE OPEN LETTER AND ACQUIRED 189 SIGNATURES OF INDIVIDUALS WHO ALSO HAVE THE SAME CONCERNS.



WE HAVE A COUPLE OF OTHER LETTERS THAT HAVE BEEN DIRECTED TO THE BUREAU THAT WE'RE ADDING. WE DON'T KNOW IF ONE OF THEM WAS ACTUALLY SENT TO THE BUREAU OR JUST TO US. THEY DO NOT HAVE ANY RELATION TO THE ECONOMIC IMPACT, BUT SINCE THEY'RE ADDRESSED AND ARE ADDRESSING THE SCORE, WE'RE GOING TO GIVE YOU THOSE, ALSO.

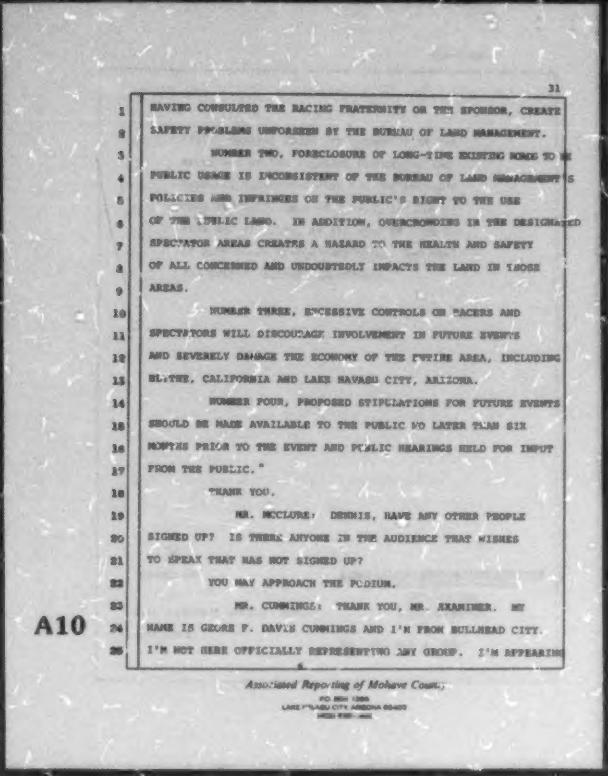
PETITIONS ARE BEING CIRCULATED IN OUR COMMUNITY, WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE YUMA DISTRICT OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, RELATING TO THE STIPULATIONS PLACED ON THE 1985 SCORE 400.

WE'RE AWARE THAT A VAST NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS HAVE SIGNED THIS PETITION AND THAT THEY WILL BE SUBMITTED TO THE BUREAU WITHIN THE NEXT 30 DAYS. THEY'RE GOING TO BE SUBMITTED TO YOU BY LOCAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS.

I'D LIKE TO READ WHAT THE PETITION SAYS TO GET IT IN THE RECORD.

"THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT AND SIGNATURES CONSTITUTES A PETITION BY CONCERNED CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND OTHER GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES AND OFFICIALS, WHICH EXPRESSES OUR DISAPPROVAL OF THE STIPULATIONS PLACED ON THE 1985 SCORE 400 DESERT ROAD RACE IN PARKER, ARIZONA FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

NUMBER ONE, STIPULATING WHERE THE PITS WILL BE LOCATED AND HOW THEY WILL BE ACCESSED ON RACE DAY, WITHOUT



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HAVING CONSULTED THE RACING FRATERNITY OR THE SPONSOR, CREATE SAFETY PROBLEMS UNFORSEEN BY THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT.

NUMBER TWO, FORECLOSURE OF LONG-TIME EXISTING ROADS TO BE PUBLIC USAGE IS INCONSISTENT OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT'S POLICIES AND INFRINGES ON THE PUBLIC'S RIGHT TO THE USE OF THE PUBLIC LAND. IN ADDITION, OVERCROWDING IN THE DESIGNATED SPECTATOR AREAS CREATES A HAZARD TO THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF ALL CONCERNED AND UNDOUBTEDLY IMPACTS THE LAND IN THOSE AREAS.

NUMBER THREE, EXCESSIVE CONTROLS ON RACERS AND SPECTATORS WILL DISCOURAGE INVOLVEMENT IN FUTURE EVENTS AND SEVERELY DAMAGE THE ECONOMY OF THE ENTIRE AREA, INCLUDING BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA AND LAKE HAVASU CITY, ARIZONA.

NUMBER FOUR, PROPOSED STIPULATIONS FOR FUTURE EVENTS SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO THE PUBLIC NO LATER THAN SIX MONTHS PRIOR TO THE EVENT AND PUBLIC HEARINGS HELD FOR INPUT FROM THE PUBLIC."

THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: DENNIS, HAVE ANY OTHER PEOPLE SIGNED UP? IS THERE ANYONE IN THE AUDIENCE THAT WISHES TO SPEAK THAT HAS NOT SIGNED UP?

YOU MAY APPROACH THE PODIUM.

A10

MR. CUMMINGS: THANK YOU, MR. EXAMINER. MY NAME IS GEORE F. DAVIS CUMMINGS AND I'M FROM BULLHEAD CITY. I'M NOT HERE OFFICIALLY REPRESENTING ANY GROUP. I'M APPEARING

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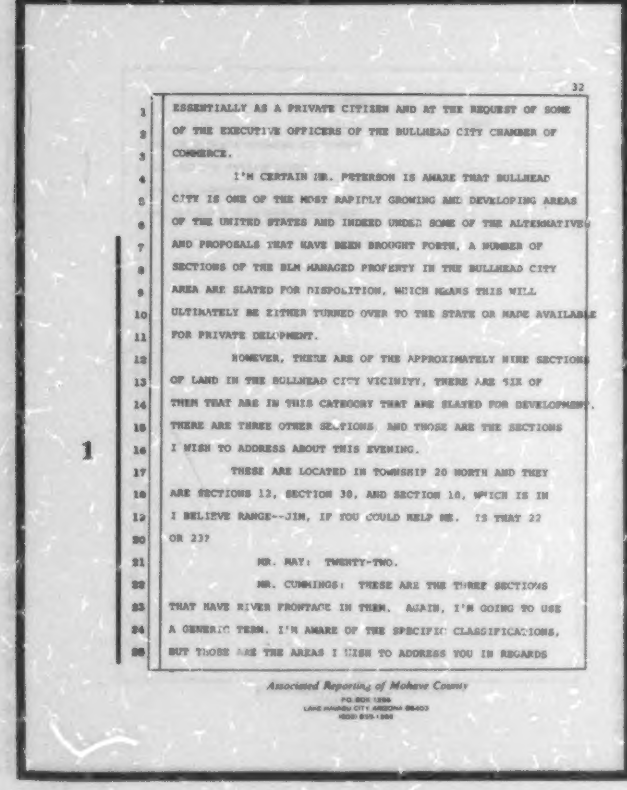

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ESSENTIALLY AS A PRIVATE CITIZEN AND AT THE REQUEST OF SOME OF THE EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF THE BULLHEAD CITY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

I'M CERTAIN MR. PETERSON IS AWARE THAT BULLHEAD CITY IS ONE OF THE MOST RAPIDLY GROWING AND DEVELOPING AREAS OF THE UNITED STATES AND INDEED UNDER SOME OF THE ALTERNATIVES AND PROPOSALS THAT HAVE BEEN BROUGHT FORTH, A NUMBER OF SECTIONS OF THE BLM MANAGED PROPERTY IN THE BULLHEAD CITY AREA ARE SLATED FOR DISPOSITION, WHICH MEANS THIS WILL ULTIMATELY BE EITHER TURNED OVER TO THE STATE OR MADE AVAILABLE FOR PRIVATE DELOPMENT.

1

HOWEVER, THERE ARE OF THE APPROXIMATELY NINE SECTIONS OF LAND IN THE BULLHEAD CITY VICINITY, THERE ARE SIX OF THEM THAT ARE IN THIS CATEGORY THAT ARE SLATED FOR DEVELOPMENT. THERE ARE THREE OTHER SECTIONS AND THOSE ARE THE SECTIONS I WISH TO ADDRESS ABOUT THIS EVENING.

THESE ARE LOCATED IN TOWNSHIP 20 NORTH AND THEY ARE SECTIONS 12, SECTION 30, AND SECTION 10, WHICH IS IN I BELIEVE RANGE--JIM, IF YOU COULD HELP ME. IS THAT 22 OR 23?

MR. MAY: TWENTY-TWO.

MR. CUMMINGS: THESE ARE THE THREE SECTIONS THAT HAVE RIVER FRONTAGE IN THEM. AGAIN, I'M GOING TO USE A GENERIC TERM. I'M AWARE OF THE SPECIFIC CLASSIFICATIONS, BUT THOSE ARE THE AREAS I WISH TO ADDRESS YOU IN REGARDS

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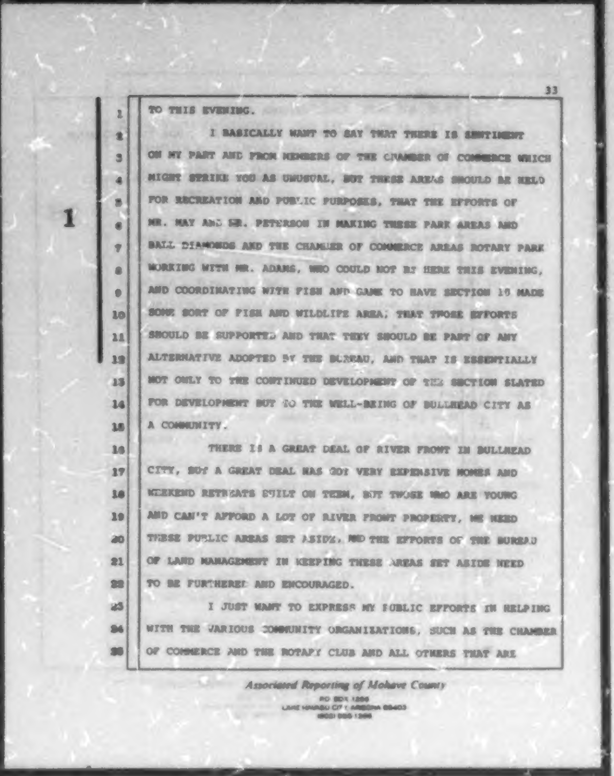

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TO THIS EVENING.

1

I BASICALLY WANT TO SAY THAT THERE IS SENTIMENT ON MY PART AND FROM MEMBERS OF THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WHICH MIGHT STRIKE YOU AS UNUSUAL, BUT THESE AREAS SHOULD BE HELD FOR RECREATION AND PUBLIC PURPOSES, THAT THE EFFORTS OF MR. MAY AND MR. PETERSON IN MAKING THESE PARK AREAS AND BALL DIAMONDS AND THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AREAS ROTARY PARK WORKING WITH MR. ADAMS, WHO COULD NOT BE HERE THIS EVENING, AND COORDINATING WITH FISH AND GAME TO HAVE SECTION 10 MADE SOME SORT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AREA; THAT THOSE EFFORTS SHOULD BE SUPPORTED AND THAT THEY SHOULD BE PART OF ANY ALTERNATIVE ADOPTED BY THE BUREAU, AND THAT IS ESSENTIALLY NOT ONLY TO THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF THE SECTION SLATED FOR DEVELOPMENT BUT TO THE WELL-BEING OF BULLHEAD CITY AS A COMMUNITY.

THERE IS A GREAT DEAL OF RIVER FRONT IN BULLHEAD CITY, BUT A GREAT DEAL HAS GOT VERY EXPENSIVE HOMES AND WEEKEND RETREATS BUILT ON THEM, BUT THOSE WHO ARE YOUNG AND CAN'T AFFORD A LOT OF RIVER FRONT PROPERTY, WE NEED THESE PUBLIC AREAS SET ASIDE, AND THE EFFORTS OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT IN KEEPING THESE AREAS SET ASIDE NEED TO BE FURTHERED AND ENCOURAGED.

I JUST WANT TO EXPRESS MY PUBLIC EFFORTS IN HELPING WITH THE VARIOUS COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND THE ROTARY CLUB AND ALL OTHERS THAT ARE

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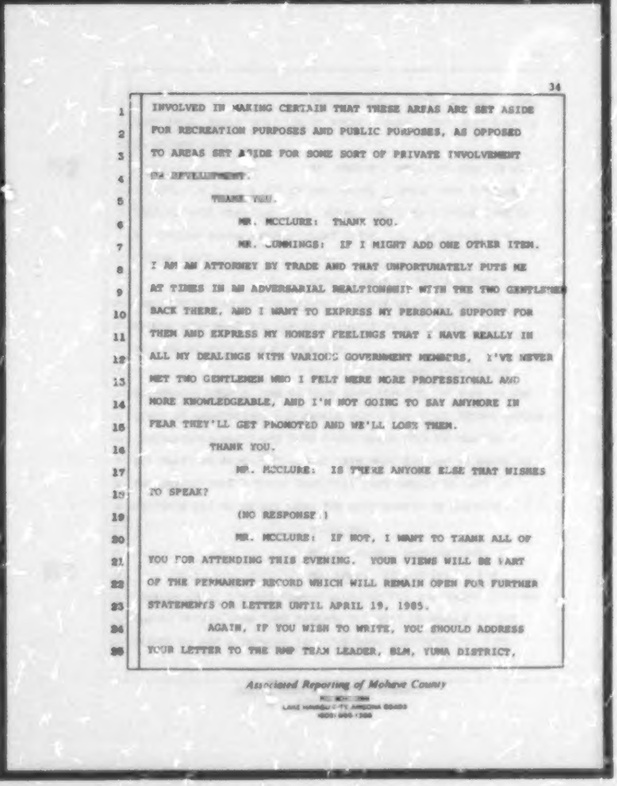

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INVOLVED IN MAKING CERTAIN THAT THESE AREAS ARE SET ASIDE FOR RECREATION PURPOSES AND PUBLIC PURPOSES, AS OPPOSED TO AREAS SET ASIDE FOR SOME SORT OF PRIVATE INVOLVEMENT OR DEVELOPMENT.

THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU.

MR. CUMMINGS: IF I MIGHT ADD ONE OTHER ITEM. I AM AN ATTORNEY BY TRADE AND THAT UNFORTUNATELY PUTS ME AT TIMES IN AN ADVERSARIAL REALTIONSHIP WITH THE TWO GENTLEMEN BACK THERE, AND I WANT TO EXPRESS MY PERSONAL SUPPORT FOR THEM AND EXPRESS MY HONEST FEELINGS THAT I HAVE REALLY IN ALL MY DEALINGS WITH VARIOUS GOVERNMENT MEMBERS, I'VE NEVER MET TWO GENTLEMEN WHO I FELT WERE MORE PROFESSIONAL AND MORE KNOWLEDGEABLE, AND I'M NOT GOING TO SAY ANYMORE IN FEAR THEY'LL GET PROMOTED AND WE'LL LOSE THEM.

THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: IS THERE ANYONE ELSE THAT WISHES TO SPEAK?

(NO RESPONSE.)

MR. MCCLURE: IF NOT, I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR ATTENDING THIS EVENING. YOUR VIEWS WILL BE PART OF THE PERMANENT RECORD WHICH WILL REMAIN OPEN FOR FURTHER STATEMENTS OR LETTER UNTIL APRIL 19, 1985.

AGAIN, IF YOU WISH TO WRITE, YOU SHOULD ADDRESS YOUR LETTER TO THE RMP TEAM LEADER, BLM, YUMA DISTRICT,

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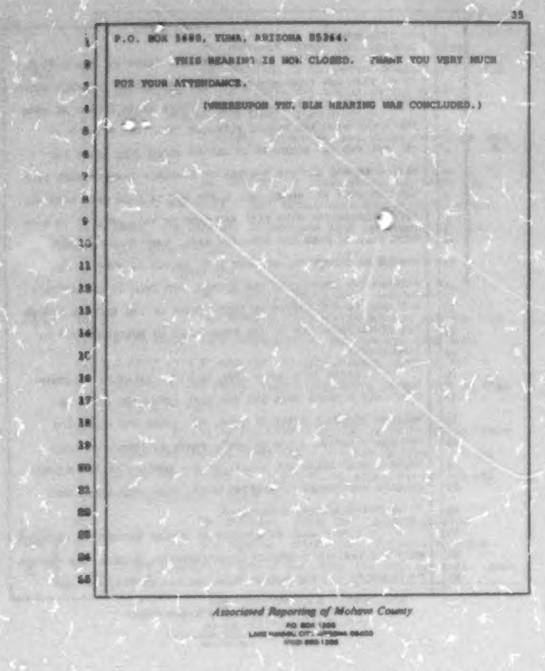

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P.O. BOX 3660, YUMA, ARIZONA 85364.

THIS HEARING IS NOW CLOSED. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE.

(WHEREUPON THE BLM HEARING WAS CONCLUDED.)

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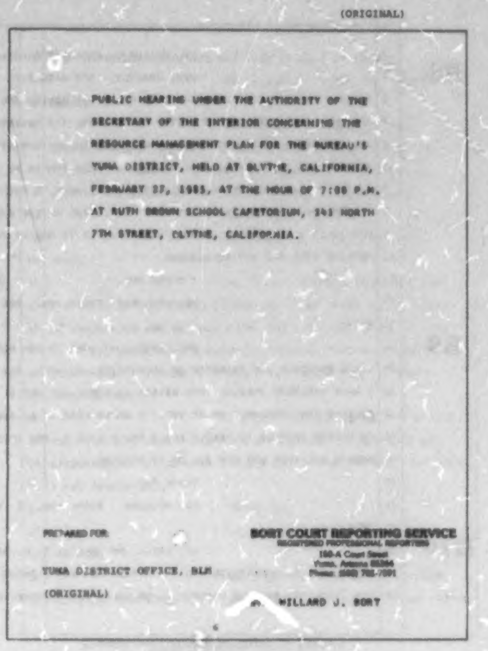


(ORIGINAL)

PUBLIC HEARING UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR CONCERNING THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE BUREAU'S YUMA DISTRICT, HELD AT BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA, FEBRUARY 27, 1985, AT THE HOUR OF 7:00 P.M. AT RUTH BROWN SCHOOL CAFETORIUM, 241 NORTH 7TH STREET, BLYTHE, CALIFORNIA.

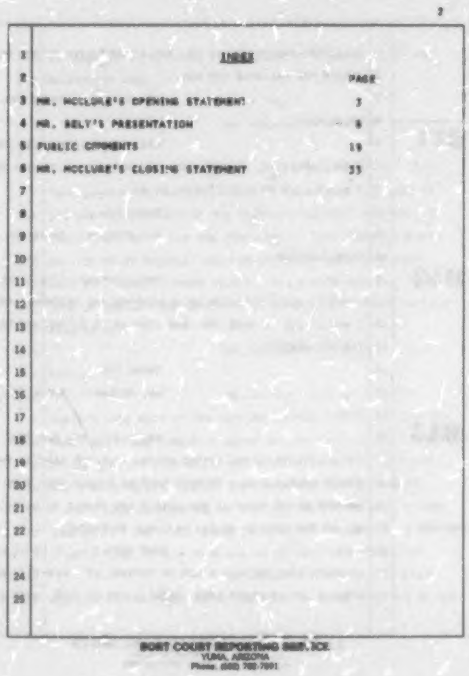
PREPARED FOR:

YUMA DISTRICT OFFICE, BLM

(ORIGINAL)

BORT COURT REPORTING SERVICE
REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL REPORTERS
180-A Court Street
Yuma, Arizona 85364
Phone: (602) 782-7091

BY: WILLARD J. BORT



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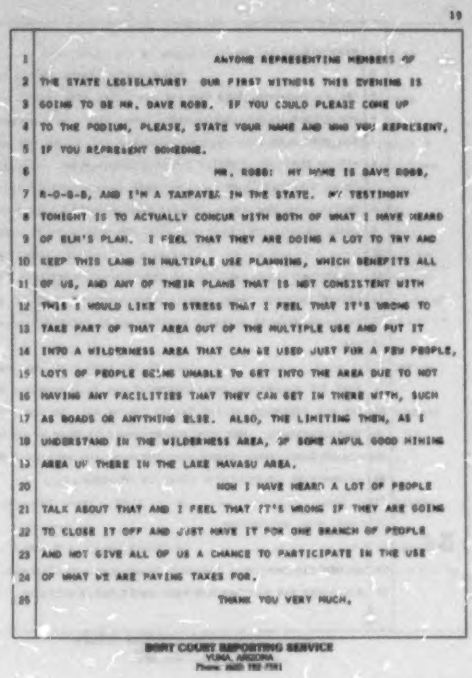

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ANYONE REPRESENTING MEMBERS OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE? OUR FIRST WITNESS THIS EVENING IS GOING TO BE MR. DAVE ROBB. IF YOU COULD PLEASE COME UP TO THE PODIUM, PLEASE, STATE YOUR NAME AND WHO YOU REPRESENT, IF YOU REPRESENT SOMEONE.

B1

MR. ROBB: MY NAME IS DAVE ROBB, R-O-B-B, AND I'M A TAXPAYER IN THE STATE. MY TESTIMONY TONIGHT IS TO ACTUALLY CONCUR WITH BOTH OF WHAT I HAVE HEARD OF BLM'S PLAN. I FEEL THAT THEY ARE DOING A LOT TO TRY AND KEEP THIS LAND IN MULTIPLE USE PLANNING, WHICH BENEFITS ALL OF US, AND ANY OF THEIR PLANS THAT IS NOT CONSISTENT WITH THIS I WOULD LIKE TO STRESS THAT I FEEL THAT IT'S WRONG TO TAKE PART OF THAT AREA OUT OF THE MULTIPLE USE AND PUT IT INTO A WILDERNESS AREA THAT CAN BE USED JUST FOR A FEW PEOPLE, LOTS OF PEOPLE BEING UNABLE TO GET INTO THE AREA DUE TO NOT HAVING ANY FACILITIES THAT THEY CAN GET IN THERE WITH, SUCH AS ROADS OR ANYTHING ELSE. ALSO, THE LIMITING THEN, AS I UNDERSTAND IN THE WILDERNESS AREA, OF SOME AWFUL GOOD MINING AREA UP THERE IN THE LAKE HAVASU AREA.

NOW I HAVE HEARD A LOT OF PEOPLE TALK ABOUT THAT AND I FEEL THAT IT'S WRONG IF THEY ARE GOING TO CLOSE IT OFF AND JUST HAVE IT FOR ONE BRANCH OF PEOPLE AND NOT GIVE ALL OF US A CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE USE OF WHAT WE ARE PAYING TAXES FOR.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

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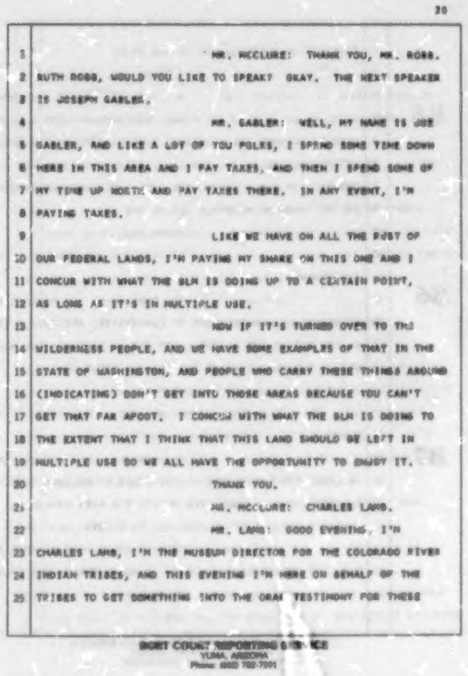

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MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU, MR. ROBB. RUTH ROBB, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPEAK? OKAY. THE NEXT SPEAKER IS JOSEPH GABLER.

B2

MR. GABLER: WELL, MY NAME IS JOE GABLER, AND LIKE A LOT OF YOU FOLKS, I SPEND SOME TIME DOWN HERE IN THIS AREA AND I PAY TAXES, AND THEN I SPEND SOME OF MY TIME UP NORTH AND PAY TAXES THERE. IN ANY EVENT, I'M PAYING TAXES.

LIKE WE HAVE ON ALL THE REST OF OUR FEDERAL LANDS, I'M PAYING MY SHARE ON THIS ONE AND I CONCUR WITH WHAT THE BLM IS DOING UP TO A CERTAIN POINT, AS LONG AS IT'S IN MULTIPLE USE.

NOW IF IT'S TURNED OVER TO THE WILDERNESS PEOPLE, AND WE HAVE SOME EXAMPLES OF THAT IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, AND PEOPLE WHO CARRY THESE THINGS AROUND (INDICATING) DON'T GET INTO THOSE AREAS BECAUSE YOU CAN'T GET THAT FAR AFOOT. I CONCUR WITH WHAT THE BLM IS DOING TO THE EXTENT THAT I THINK THAT THIS LAND SHOULD BE LEFT IN MULTIPLE USE SO WE ALL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ENJOY IT.

THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: CHARLES LAMB.

B3

MR. LAMB: GOOD EVENING. I'M CHARLES LAMB, I'M THE MUSEUM DIRECTOR FOR THE COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES, AND THIS EVENING I'M HERE ON BEHALF OF THE TRIBES TO GET SOMETHING INTO THE ORAL TESTIMONY FOR THESE

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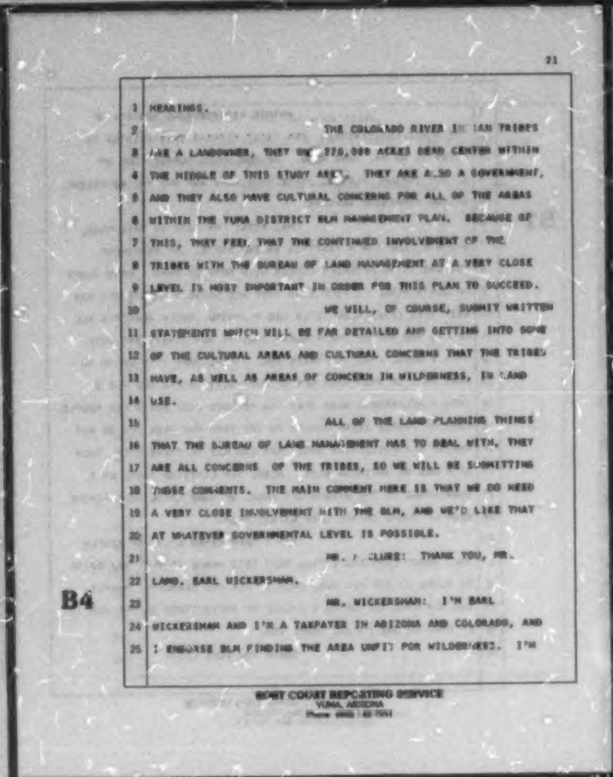

HEARINGS.

THE COLORADO RIVER INDIAN TRIBES ARE A LANDOWNER, THEY OWN 270,000 ACRES DEAD CENTER WITHIN THE MIDDLE OF THIS STUDY AREA. THEY ARE ALSO A GOVERNMENT, AND THEY ALSO HAVE CULTURAL CONCERNS FOR ALL OF THE AREAS WITHIN THE YUMA DISTRICT BLM MANAGEMENT PLAN. BECAUSE OF THIS, THEY FEEL THAT THE CONTINUED INVOLVEMENT OF THE TRIBES WITH THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AT A VERY CLOSE LEVEL IS MOST IMPORTANT IN ORDER FOR THIS PLAN TO SUCCEED.

WE WILL, OF COURSE, SUBMIT WRITTEN STATEMENTS WHICH WILL BE FAR DETAILED AND GETTING INTO SOME OF THE CULTURAL AREAS AND CULTURAL CONCERNS THAT THE TRIBES HAVE, AS WELL AS AREAS OF CONCERN IN WILDERNESS, IN LAND USE.

ALL OF THE LAND PLANNING THINGS THAT THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT HAS TO DEAL WITH, THEY ARE ALL CONCERNS OF THE TRIBES, SO WE WILL BE SUBMITTING THOSE COMMENTS. THE MAIN COMMENT HERE IS THAT WE DO NEED A VERY CLOSE INVOLVEMENT WITH THE BLM, AND WE'D LIKE THAT AT WHATEVER GOVERNMENTAL LEVEL IS POSSIBLE.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU, MR. LAND. EARL WICKERSHAM.

B4

MR. WICKERSHAM: I'M EARL WICKERSHAM AND I'M A TAXPAYER IN ARIZONA AND COLORADO, AND I ENDORSE BLM FINDING THE AREA UNFIT FOR WILDERNESS. I'M

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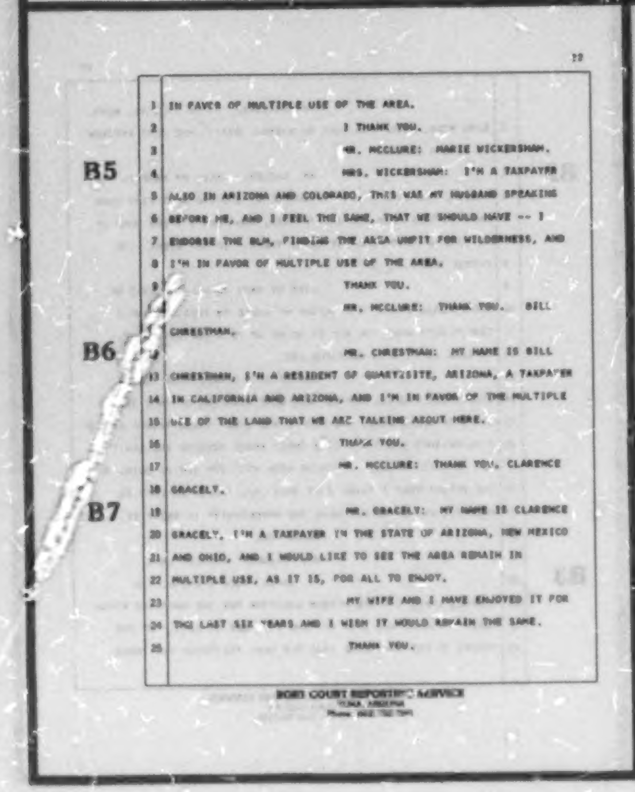

IN FAVOR OF MULTIPLE USE OF THE AREA.

I THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: MARIE WICKERSHAM.

B5

MRS. WICKERSHAM: I'M A TAXPAYER ALSO IN ARIZONA AND COLORADO, THIS WAS MY HUSBAND SPEAKING BEFORE ME, AND I FEEL THE SAME, THAT WE SHOULD HAVE -- I ENDORSE THE BLM, FINDING THE AREA UNFIT FOR WILDERNESS, AND I'M IN FAVOR OF MULTIPLE USE OF THE AREA.

THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. BILL CHRESTMAN.

B6

MR. CHRESTMAN: MY NAME IS BILL CHRESTMAN, I'M A RESIDENT OF QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA, A TAXPAYER IN CALIFORNIA AND ARIZONA, AND I'M IN FAVOR OF THE MULTIPLE USE OF THE LAND THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT HERE.

THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. CLARENCE GRACELY.

B7

MR. GRACELY: MY NAME IS CLARENCE GRACELY, I'M A TAXPAYER IN THE STATE OF ARIZONA, NEW MEXICO AND OHIO, AND I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE AREA REMAIN IN MULTIPLE USE, AS IT IS, FOR ALL TO ENJOY.

MY WIFE AND I HAVE ENJOYED IT FOR THE LAST SIX YEARS AND I WISH IT WOULD REMAIN THE SAME.

THANK YOU.

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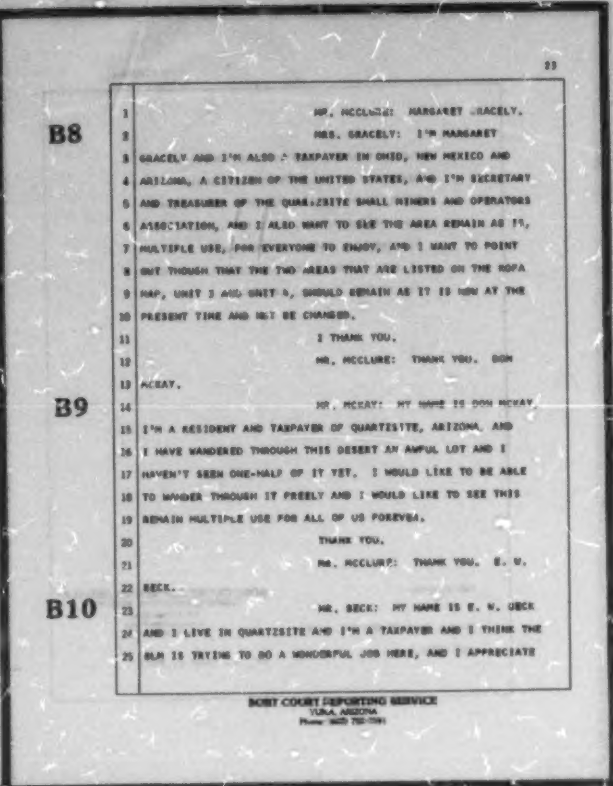

MR. MCCLURE: MARGARET GRACELY.

B8

MRS. GRACELY: I'M MARGARET GRACELY AND I'M ALSO A TAXPAYER IN OHIO, NEW MEXICO AND ARIZONA, A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES, AND I'M SECRETARY AND TREASURER OF THE QUARTZSITE SMALL MINERS AND OPERATORS ASSOCIATION, AND I ALSO WANT TO SEE THE AREA REMAIN AS IS, MULTIPLE USE, FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY, AND I WANT TO POINT OUT THOUGH THAT THE TWO AREAS THAT ARE LISTED ON THE NOFA MAP, UNIT 3 AND UNIT 4, SHOULD REMAIN AS IT IS NOW AT THE PRESENT TIME AND NOT BE CHANGED.

I THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. DON MCKAY.

B9

MR. MCKAY: MY NAME IS DON MCKAY. I'M A RESIDENT AND TAXPAYER OF QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA, AND I HAVE WANDERED THROUGH THIS DESERT AN AWFUL LOT AND I HAVEN'T SEEN ONE-HALF OF IT YET. I WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO WANDER THROUGH IT FREELY AND I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS REMAIN MULTIPLE USE FOR ALL OF US FOREVER.

THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. E. W. BECK.

B10

MR. BECK: MY NAME IS E. W. BECK AND I LIVE IN QUARTZSITE AND I'M A TAXPAYER AND I THINK THE BLM IS TRYING TO DO A WONDERFUL JOB HERE, AND I APPRECIATE

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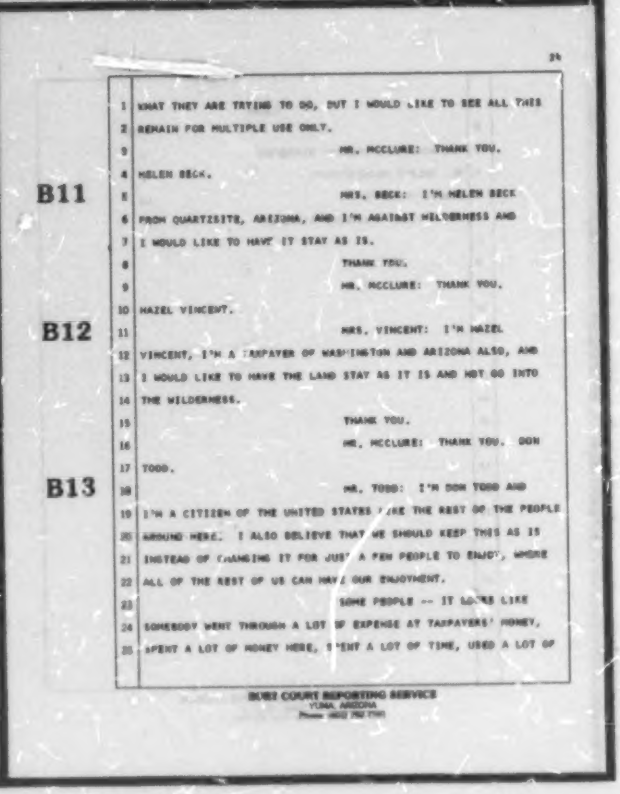

WHAT THEY ARE TRYING TO DO, BUT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE ALL THIS REMAIN FOR MULTIPLE USE ONLY.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. HELEN BECK.

B11

MRS. BECK: I'M HELEN BECK FROM QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA, AND I'M AGAINST WILDERNESS AND I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE IT STAY AS IS.

THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. HAZEL VINCENT.

B12

MRS. VINCENT: I'M HAZEL VINCENT, I'M A TAXPAYER OF WASHINGTON AND ARIZONA ALSO, AND I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE LAND STAY AS IT IS AND NOT GO INTO THE WILDERNESS.

THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. DON TODD.

B13

MR. TODD: I'M DON TODD AND I'M A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES LIKE THE REST OF THE PEOPLE AROUND HERE. I ALSO BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD KEEP THIS AS IS INSTEAD OF CHANGING IT FOR JUST A FEW PEOPLE TO ENJOY, WHERE ALL OF THE REST OF US CAN HAVE OUR ENJOYMENT.

SOME PEOPLE -- IT LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY WENT THROUGH A LOT OF EXPENSE AT TAXPAYERS' MONEY, SPENT A LOT OF MONEY HERE, SPENT A LOT OF TIME, USED A LOT OF

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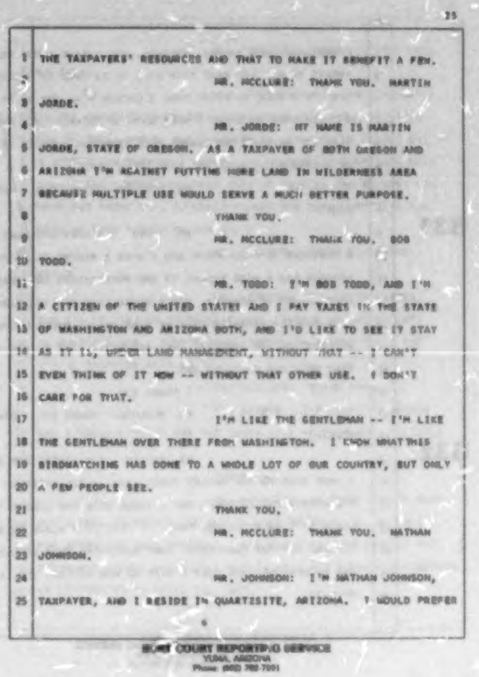

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THE TAXPAYERS' RESOURCES AND THAT TO MAKE IT BENEFIT A FEW.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. MARTIN JORDE.

B14

MR. JORDE: MY NAME IS MARTIN JORDE, STATE OF OREGON. AS A TAXPAYER OF BOTH OREGON AND ARIZONA I'M AGAINST PUTTING MORE LAND IN WILDERNESS AREA BECAUSE MULTIPLE USE WOULD SERVE A MUCH BETTER PURPOSE.

THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. BOB TODD.

B15

MR. TODD: I'M BOB TODD, AND I'M A CITIZEN OF THE UNITED STATES AND I PAY TAXES IN THE STATE OF WASHINGTON AND ARIZONA BOTH, AND I'D LIKE TO SEE IT STAY AS IT IS, UNDER LAND MANAGEMENT, WITHOUT THAT -- I CAN'T EVEN THINK OF IT NOW -- WITHOUT THAT OTHER USE. I DON'T CARE FOR THAT.

I'M LIKE THE GENTLEMAN -- I'M LIKE THE GENTLEMAN OVER THERE FROM WASHINGTON. I KNOW WHAT THIS BIRDWATCHING HAS DONE TO A WHOLE LOT OF OUR COUNTRY, BUT ONLY A FEW PEOPLE SEE.

THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. NATHAN JOHNSON.

B16

MR. JOHNSON: I'M NATHAN JOHNSON, TAXPAYER, AND I RESIDE IN QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA. I WOULD PREFER

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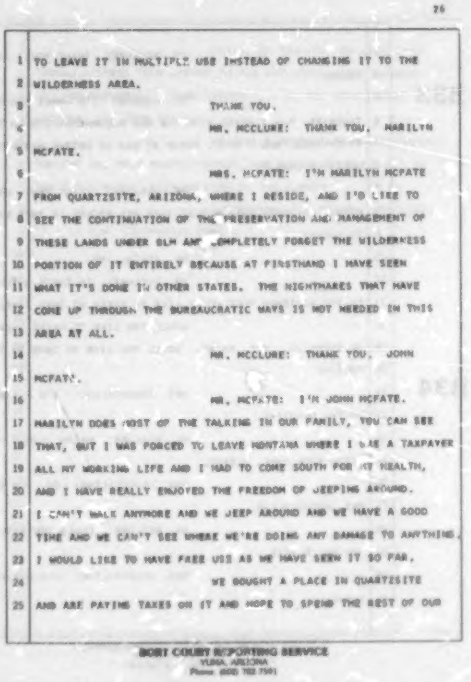

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TO LEAVE IT IN MULTIPLE USE INSTEAD OF CHANGING IT TO THE WILDERNESS AREA.

THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. MARILYN MCFATE.

B17

MRS. MCFATE: I'M MARILYN MCFATE FROM QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA, WHERE I RESIDE, AND I'D LIKE TO SEE THE CONTINUATION OF THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THESE LANDS UNDER BLM AND COMPLETELY FORGET THE WILDERNESS PORTION OF IT ENTIRELY BECAUSE AT FIRSTHAND I HAVE SEEN WHAT IT'S DONE IN OTHER STATES. THE NIGHTMARES THAT HAVE COME UP THROUGH THE BUREAUCRATIC WAYS IS NOT NEEDED IN THIS AREA AT ALL.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. JOHN MCFATE.

B18

MR. MCFATE: I'M JOHN MCFATE. MARILYN DOES MOST OF THE TALKING IN OUR FAMILY, YOU CAN SEE THAT, BUT I WAS FORCED TO LEAVE MONTANA WHERE I WAS A TAXPAYER ALL MY WORKING LIFE AND I HAD TO COME SOUTH FOR MY HEALTH, AND I HAVE REALLY ENJOYED THE FREEDOM OF JEEPING AROUND. I CAN'T WALK ANYMORE AND WE JEEP AROUND AND WE HAVE A GOOD TIME AND WE CAN'T SEE WHERE WE'RE DOING ANY DAMAGE TO ANYTHING. I WOULD LIKE TO HAVE FREE USE AS WE HAVE SEEN IT SO FAR.

WE BOUGHT A PLACE IN QUARTZSITE AND ARE PAYING TAXES ON IT AND HOPE TO SPEND THE REST OF OUR

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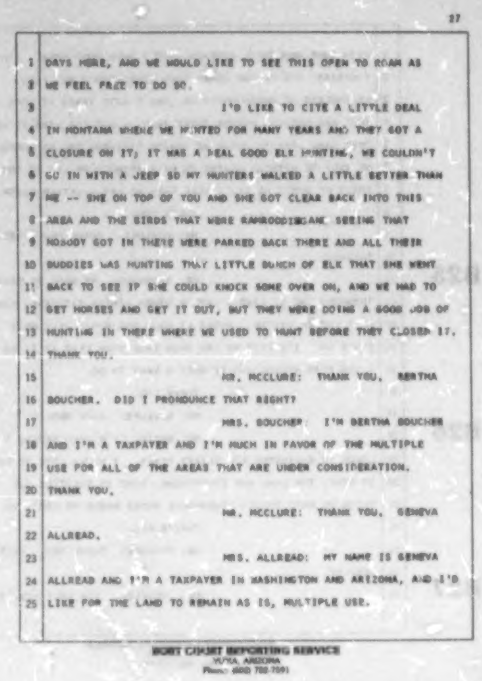

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DAYS HERE, AND WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE THIS OPEN TO ROAM AS WE FEEL FREE TO DO SO.

I'D LIKE TO CITE A LITTLE DEAL IN MONTANA WHERE WE HUNTED FOR MANY YEARS AND THEY GOT A CLOSURE ON IT; IT WAS A REAL GOOD ELK HUNTING, WE COULDN'T GO IN WITH A JEEP SO MY HUNTERS WALKED A LITTLE BETTER THAN ME -- SHE ON TOP OF YOU AND SHE GOT CLEAR BACK INTO THIS AREA AND THE BIRDS THAT WERE RAMROODINGAME SEEING THAT NOBODY GOT IN THERE WERE PARKED BACK THERE AND ALL THEIR BUDDIES WAS HUNTING THAT LITTLE BUNCH OF ELK THAT SHE WENT BACK TO SEE IF SHE COULD KNOCK SOME OVER ON, AND WE HAD TO GET HORSES AND GET IT OUT, BUT THEY WERE DOING A GOOD JOB OF HUNTING IN THERE WHERE WE USED TO HUNT BEFORE THEY CLOSED IT. THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. BERTHA BOUCHER. DID I PRONOUNCE THAT RIGHT?

B19

MRS. BOUCHER: I'M BERTHA BOUCHER AND I'M A TAXPAYER AND I'M MUCH IN FAVOR OF THE MULTIPLE USE FOR ALL OF THE AREAS THAT ARE UNDER CONSIDERATION. THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. GENEVA ALLREAD.

B20

MRS. ALLREAD: MY NAME IS GENEVA ALLREAD AND I'M A TAXPAYER IN WASHINGTON AND ARIZONA, AND I'D LIKE FOR THE LAND TO REMAIN AS IS, MULTIPLE USE.

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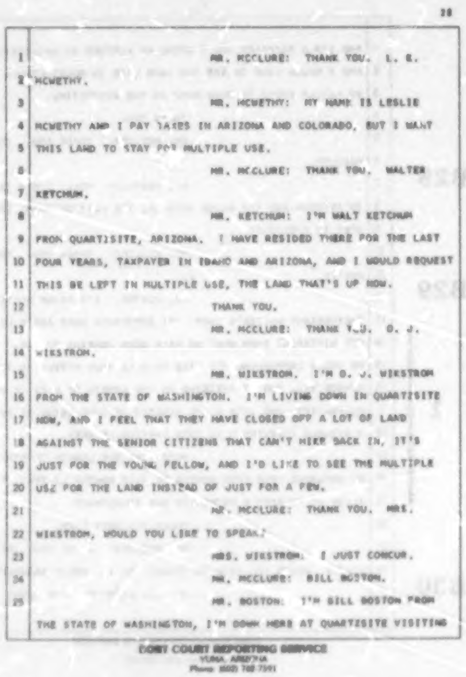

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MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. L. E. MCWETHY.

B21

MR. MCWETHY: MY NAME IS LESLIE MCWETHY AND I PAY TAXES IN ARIZONA AND COLORADO, BUT I WANT THIS LAND TO STAY FOR MULTIPLE USE.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. WALTER KETCHUM.

B22

MR. KETCHUM: I'M WALT KETCHUM FROM QUARTZSITE, ARIZONA. I HAVE RESIDED THERE FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS, TAXPAYER IN IDAHO AND ARIZONA, AND I WOULD REQUEST THIS BE LEFT IN MULTIPLE USE, THE LAND THAT'S UP NOW.

THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. O. J. WIKSTROM.

B23

MR. WIKSTROM. I'M O. J. WIKSTROM FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON. I'M LIVING DOWN IN QUARTZSITE NOW, AND I FEEL THAT THEY HAVE CLOSED OFF A LOT OF LAND AGAINST THE SENIOR CITIZENS THAT CAN'T HIKE BACK IN, IT'S JUST FOR THE YOUNG FELLOW, AND I'D LIKE TO SEE THE MULTIPLE USE FOR THE LAND INSTEAD OF JUST FOR A FEW.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. MRS. WIKSTROM, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPEAK?

MRS. WIKSTROM: I JUST CONCUR.

MR. MCCLURE: BILL BOSTON.

B24

MR. BOSTON: I'M BILL BOSTON FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON, I'M DOWN HERE AT QUARTZSITE VISITING

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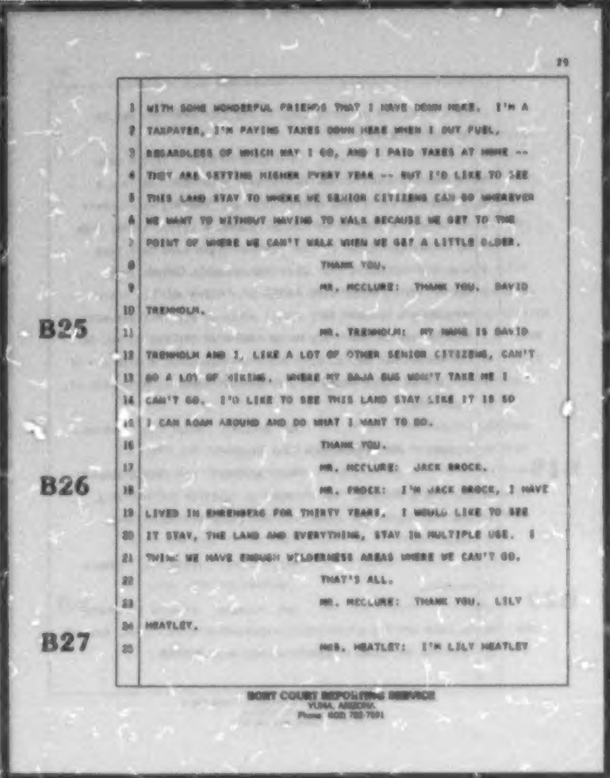


WITH SOME WONDERFUL FRIENDS THAT I HAVE DOWN HERE. I'M A TAXPAYER, I'M PAYING TAXES DOWN HERE WHEN I BUY FUEL, REGARDLESS OF WHICH WAY I GO, AND I PAID TAXES AT HOME -- THEY ARE GETTING HIGHER EVERY YEAR -- BUT I'D LIKE TO SEE THIS LAND STAY TO WHERE WE SENIOR CITIZENS CAN GO WHEREVER WE WANT TO WITHOUT HAVING TO WALK BECAUSE WE GET TO THE POINT OF WHERE WE CAN'T WALK WHEN WE GET A LITTLE OLDER.

THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. DAVID TREMHOLM.

B25

MR. TREMHOLM: MY NAME IS DAVID TREMHOLM AND I, LIKE A LOT OF OTHER SENIOR CITIZENS, CAN'T DO A LOT OF HIKING. WHERE MY BAJA BUG WON'T TAKE ME I CAN'T GO. I'D LIKE TO SEE THIS LAND STAY LIKE IT IS SO I CAN ROAM AROUND AND DO WHAT I WANT TO DO.

THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: JACK BROCE.

B26

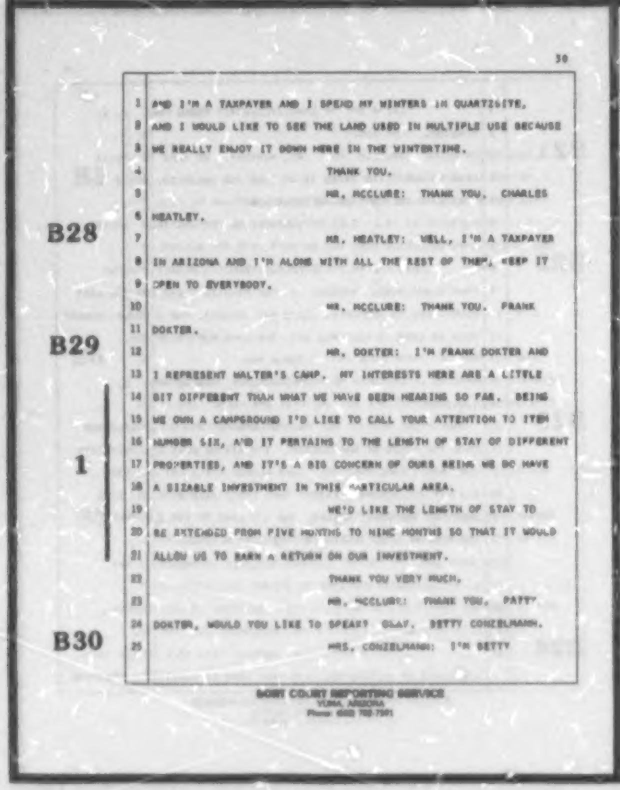
MR. BROCE: I'M JACK BROCE, I HAVE LIVED IN EHRENBERG FOR THIRTY YEARS. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE IT STAY, THE LAND AND EVERYTHING, STAY IN MULTIPLE USE. I THINK WE HAVE ENOUGH WILDERNESS AREAS WHERE WE CAN'T GO.

THAT'S ALL.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. LILY HEATLEY.

B27

MRS. HEATLEY: I'M LILY HEATLEY



AND I'M A TAXPAYER AND I SPEND MY WINTERS IN QUARTZSITE, AND I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE LAND USED IN MULTIPLE USE BECAUSE WE REALLY ENJOY IT DOWN HERE IN THE WINTERTIME.

THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. CHARLES HEATLEY.

B28

MR. HEATLEY: WELL, I'M A TAXPAYER IN ARIZONA AND I'M ALONG WITH ALL THE REST OF THEM, KEEP IT OPEN TO EVERYBODY.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. FRANK DOKTER.

B29

MR. DOKTER: I'M FRANK DOKTER AND I REPRESENT WALTER'S CAMP. MY INTERESTS HERE ARE A LITTLE BIT DIFFERENT THAN WHAT WE HAVE BEEN HEARING SO FAR. BEING WE OWN A CAMPGROUND I'D LIKE TO CALL YOUR ATTENTION TO ITEM NUMBER SIX, AND IT PERTAINS TO THE LENGTH OF STAY OF DIFFERENT PROPERTIES, AND IT'S A BIG CONCERN OF OURS BEING WE DO HAVE A SIZABLE INVESTMENT IN THIS PARTICULAR AREA.

1

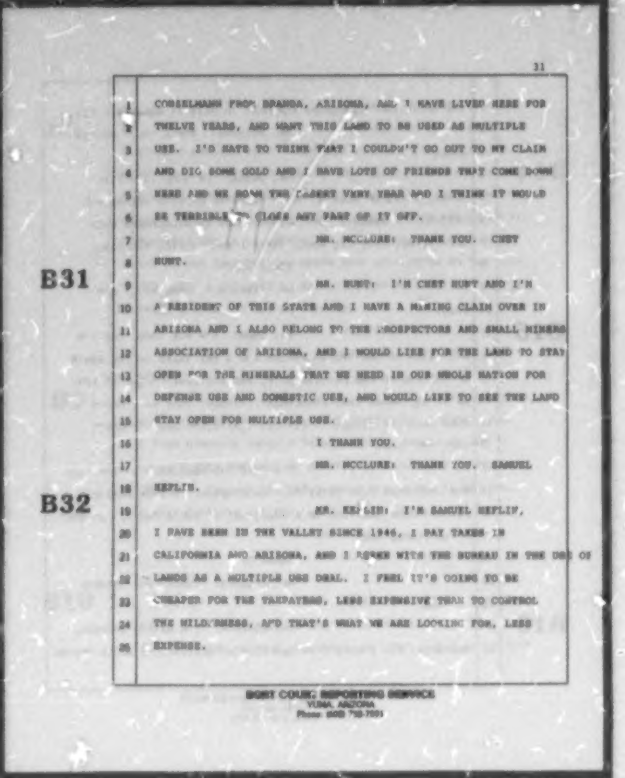
WE'D LIKE THE LENGTH OF STAY TO BE EXTENDED FROM FIVE MONTHS TO NINE MONTHS SO THAT IT WOULD ALLOW US TO EARN A RETURN ON OUR INVESTMENT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. PATTY DOKTER, WOULD YOU LIKE TO SPEAK? OKAY. BETTY CONZELMANN.

B30

MRS. CONZELMANN: I'M BETTY



CONZELMANN FROM BRENDA, ARIZONA, AND I HAVE LIVED HERE FOR TWELVE YEARS, AND WANT THIS LAND TO BE USED AS MULTIPLE USE. I'D HATE TO THINK THAT I COULDN'T GO OUT TO MY CLAIM AND DIG SOME GOLD AND I HAVE LOTS OF FRIENDS THAT COME DOWN HERE AND WE ROAM THE DESERT EVERY YEAR AND I THINK IT WOULD BE TERRIBLE TO CLOSE ANY PART OF IT OFF.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. CHET HUNT.

B31

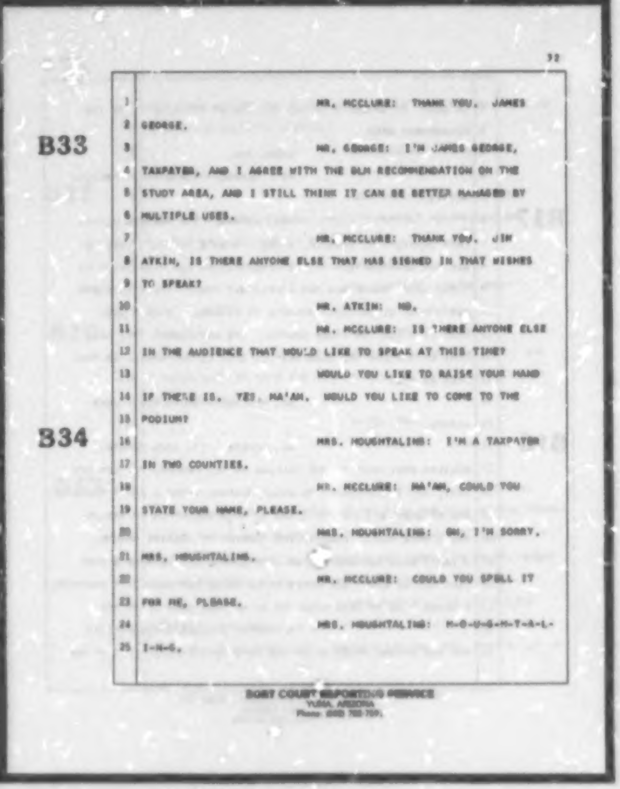
MR. HUNT: I'M CHET HUNT AND I'M A RESIDENT OF THIS STATE AND I HAVE A MINING CLAIM OVER IN ARIZONA AND I ALSO BELONG TO THE PROSPECTORS AND SMALL MINERS ASSOCIATION OF ARIZONA, AND I WOULD LIKE FOR THE LAND TO STAY OPEN FOR THE MINERALS THAT WE NEED IN OUR WHOLE NATION FOR DEFENSE USE AND DOMESTIC USE, AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE LAND STAY OPEN FOR MULTIPLE USE.

I THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. SAMUEL KEPLIN.

B32

MR. KEPLIN: I'M SAMUEL KEPLIN, I HAVE BEEN IN THE VALLEY SINCE 1946, I PAY TAXES IN CALIFORNIA AND ARIZONA, AND I AGREE WITH THE BUREAU IN THE USE OF LANDS AS A MULTIPLE USE DEAL. I FEEL IT'S GOING TO BE CHEAPER FOR THE TAXPAYERS, LESS EXPENSIVE THAN TO CONTROL THE WILDERNESS, AND THAT'S WHAT WE ARE LOOKING FOR, LESS EXPENSE.



MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. JAMES GEORGE.

B33

MR. GEORGE: I'M JAMES GEORGE, TAXPAYER, AND I AGREE WITH THE BLM RECOMMENDATION ON THE STUDY AREA, AND I STILL THINK IT CAN BE BETTER MANAGED BY MULTIPLE USES.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. JIM ATKIN, IS THERE ANYONE ELSE THAT HAS SIGNED IN THAT WISHES TO SPEAK?

MR. ATKIN: NO.

MR. MCCLURE: IS THERE ANYONE ELSE IN THE AUDIENCE THAT WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK AT THIS TIME?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RAISE YOUR HAND IF THERE IS. YES, MA'AM. WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME TO THE PODIUM?

B34

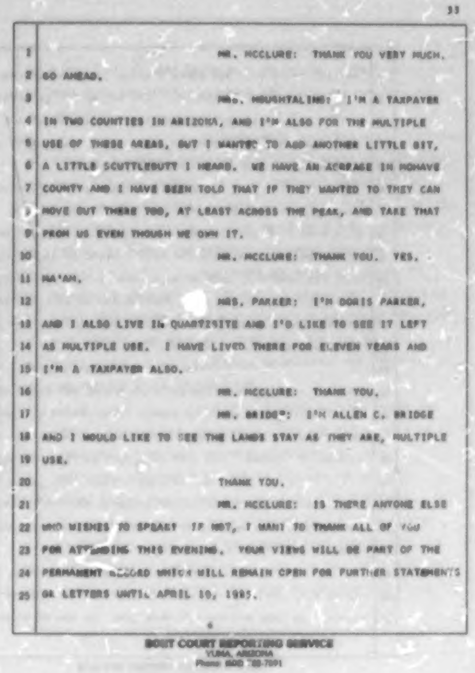
MRS. HOUGHTALING: I'M A TAXPAYER IN TWO COUNTIES.

MR. MCCLURE: MA'AM, COULD YOU STATE YOUR NAME, PLEASE.

MRS. HOUGHTALING: OH, I'M SORRY. MRS. HOUGHTALING.

MR. MCCLURE: COULD YOU SPELL IT FOR ME, PLEASE.

MRS. HOUGHTALING: H-O-U-G-H-T-A-L-I-N-G.



MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU VERY MUCH. GO AHEAD.

MRS. HOUGHTALING: I'M A TAXPAYER IN TWO COUNTIES IN ARIZONA, AND I'M ALSO FOR THE MULTIPLE USE OF THESE AREAS, BUT I WANTED TO ADD ANOTHER LITTLE BIT, A LITTLE SCUTTLEBUTT I HEARD. WE HAVE AN ACREAGE IN MOHAVE COUNTY AND I HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT IF THEY WANTED TO THEY CAN MOVE OUT THERE TOO, AT LEAST ACROSS THE PEAK, AND TAKE THAT FROM US EVEN THOUGH WE OWN IT.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. YES, MA'AM.

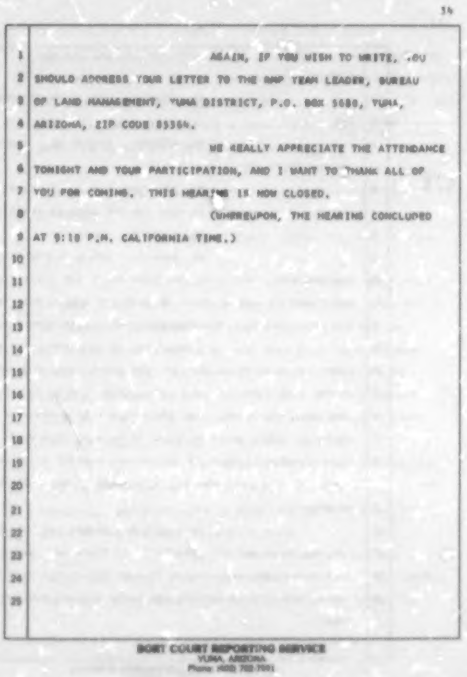
B35 MRS. PARKER: I'M DORIS PARKER, AND I ALSO LIVE IN QUARTZSITE AND I'D LIKE TO SEE IT LEFT AS MULTIPLE USE. I HAVE LIVED THERE FOR ELEVEN YEARS AND I'M A TAXPAYER ALSO.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU.

B36 MR. BRIDGE: I'M ALLEN C. BRIDGE AND I WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE LANDS STAY AS THEY ARE, MULTIPLE USE.

THANK YOU.

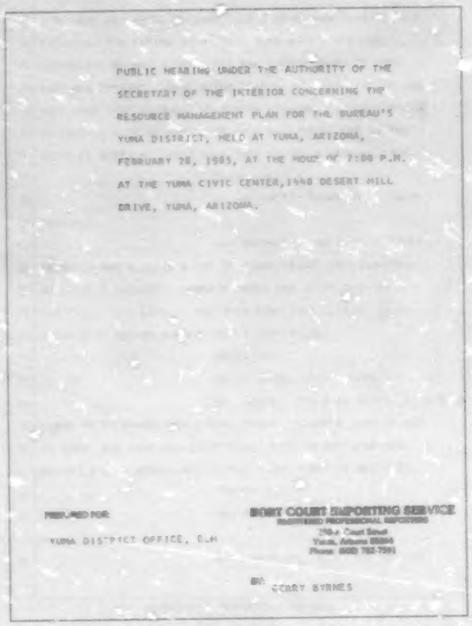
MR. MCCLURE: IS THERE ANYONE ELSE WHO WISHES TO SPEAK? IF NOT, I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR ATTENDING THIS EVENING. YOUR VIEWS WILL BE PART OF THE PERMANENT RECORD WHICH WILL REMAIN OPEN FOR FURTHER STATEMENTS OR LETTERS UNTIL APRIL 10, 1985.



AGAIN, IF YOU WISH TO WRITE, YOU SHOULD ADDRESS YOUR LETTER TO THE RMP TEAM LEADER, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, YUMA DISTRICT, P.O. BOX 5680, YUMA, ARIZONA, ZIP CODE 85364.

WE REALLY APPRECIATE THE ATTENDANCE TONIGHT AND YOUR PARTICIPATION, AND I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR COMING. THIS HEARING IS NOW CLOSED.

(WHEREUPON, THE HEARING CONCLUDED AT 9:10 P.M. CALIFORNIA TIME.)



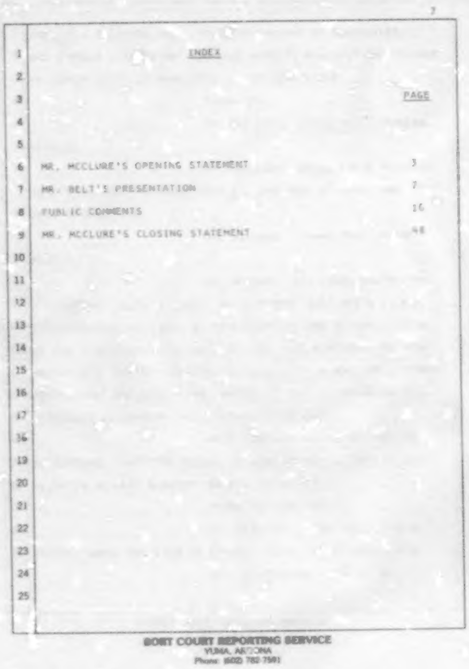
PUBLIC HEARING UNDER THE AUTHORITY OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR CONCERNING THE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE BUREAU'S YUMA DISTRICT, HELD AT YUMA, ARIZONA, FEBRUARY 28, 1985, AT THE HOUR OF 7:00 P.M. AT THE YUMA CIVIC CENTER,1440 DESERT HILL DRIVE, YUMA, ARIZONA.

PREPARED FOR:

YUMA DISTRICT OFFICE, BLM

BORT COURT REPORTING SERVICE
REGISTERED PROFESSIONAL REPORTERS
250-A Court Street
Yuma, Arizona 85364
Phone: (602) 782-7591

BY: GERRY BYRNES



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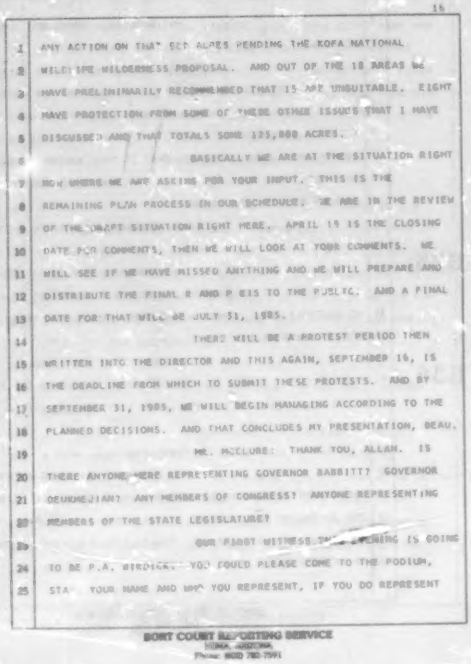

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ANY ACTION ON THAT 900 ACRES PENDING THE KOFA NATIONAL WILDLIFE WILDERNESS PROPOSAL. AND OUT OF THE 18 AREAS WE HAVE PRELIMINARILY RECOMMENDED THAT 15 ARE UNSUITABLE. EIGHT HAVE PROTECTION FROM SOME OF THESE OTHER ISSUES THAT I HAVE DISCUSSED AND THAT TOTALS SOME 125,000 ACRES.

BASICALLY WE ARE AT THE SITUATION RIGHT NOW WHERE WE ARE ASKING FOR YOUR INPUT. THIS IS THE REMAINING PLAN PROCESS IN OUR SCHEDULE. WE ARE IN THE REVIEW OF THE DRAFT SITUATION RIGHT HERE. APRIL 19 IS THE CLOSING DATE FOR COMMENTS, THEN WE WILL LOOK AT YOUR COMMENTS. WE WILL SEE IF WE HAVE MISSED ANYTHING AND WE WILL PREPARE AND DISTRIBUTE THE FINAL R AND P EIS TO THE PUBLIC. AND A FINAL DATE FOR THAT WILL BE JULY 31, 1985.

THERE WILL BE A PROTEST PERIOD THEN WRITTEN INTO THE DIRECTOR AND THIS AGAIN, SEPTEMBER 16, IS THE DEADLINE FROM WHICH TO SUBMIT THESE PROTESTS. AND BY SEPTEMBER 31, 1985, WE WILL BEGIN MANAGING ACCORDING TO THE PLANNED DECISIONS. AND THAT CONCLUDES MY PRESENTATION, BEAU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU, ALLAN. IS THERE ANYONE HERE REPRESENTING GOVERNOR BABBITT? GOVERNOR DEUKMEJIAN? ANY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS? ANYONE REPRESENTING MEMBERS OF THE STATE LEGISLATURE?

OUR FIRST WITNESS THIS EVENING IS GOING TO BE P.A. BIRDICK. YOU COULD PLEASE COME TO THE PODIUM, STATE YOUR NAME AND WHO YOU REPRESENT, IF YOU DO REPRESENT

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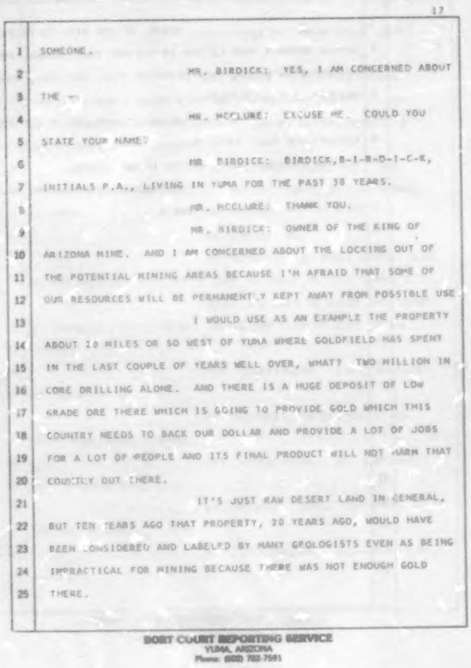

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SOMEONE.

MR. BIRDICK: YES, I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE --

MR. MCCLURE: EXCUSE ME. COULD YOU STATE YOUR NAME?

MR. BIRDICK: BIRDICK,B-I-R-D-I-C-K, INITIALS P.A., LIVING IN YUMA FOR THE PAST 38 YEARS.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU.

MR. BIRDICK: OWNER OF THE KING OF ARIZONA MINE. AND I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE LOCKING OUT OF THE POTENTIAL MINING AREAS BECAUSE I'M AFRAID THAT SOME OF OUR RESOURCES WILL BE PERMANENTLY KEPT AWAY FROM POSSIBLE USE.

I WOULD USE AS AN EXAMPLE THE PROPERTY ABOUT 20 MILES OR SO WEST OF YUMA WHERE GOLDFIELD HAS SPENT IN THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS WELL OVER, WHAT? TWO MILLION IN CORE DRILLING ALONE. AND THERE IS A HUGE DEPOSIT OF LOW GRADE ORE THERE WHICH IS GOING TO PROVIDE GOLD WHICH THIS COUNTRY NEEDS TO BACK OUR DOLLAR AND PROVIDE A LOT OF JOBS FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE AND ITS FINAL PRODUCT WILL NOT HARM THAT COUNTRY OUT THERE.

IT'S JUST RAW DESERT LAND IN GENERAL, BUT TEN YEARS AGO THAT PROPERTY, 20 YEARS AGO, WOULD HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED AND LABELED BY MANY GEOLOGISTS EVEN AS BEING IMPRACTICAL FOR MINING BECAUSE THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH GOLD THERE.

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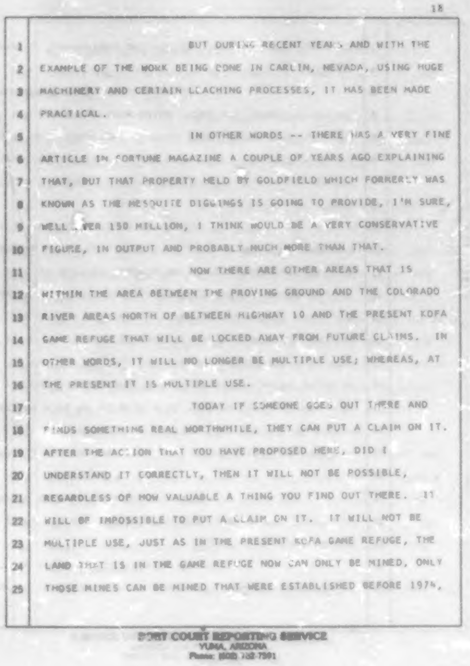


18

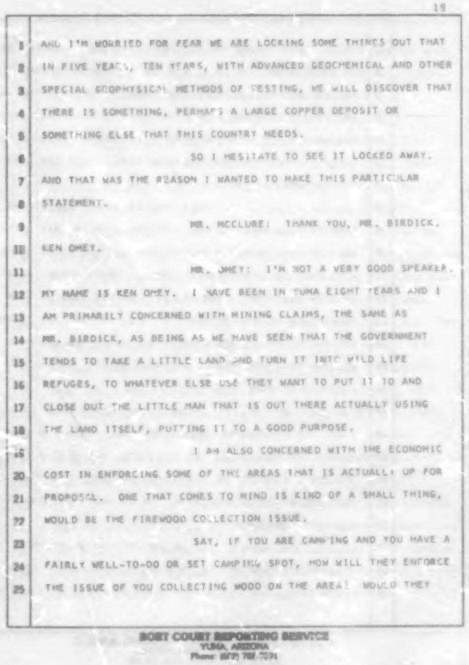
BUT DURING RECENT YEARS AND WITH THE EXAMPLE OF THE WORK BEING DONE IN CARLIN, NEVADA, USING HUGE MACHINERY AND CERTAIN LEACHING PROCESSES, IT HAS BEEN MADE PRACTICAL.

IN OTHER WORDS -- THERE HAS A VERY FINE ARTICLE IN FORTUNE MAGAZINE A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO EXPLAINING THAT, BUT THAT PROPERTY HELD BY GOLDFIELD WHICH FORMERLY WAS KNOWN AS THE MESQUITE DIGGINGS IS GOING TO PROVIDE, I'M SURE, WELL OVER 150 MILLION, I THINK WOULD BE A VERY CONSERVATIVE FIGURE, IN OUTPUT AND PROBABLY MUCH MORE THAN THAT.

1

NOW THERE ARE OTHER AREAS THAT IS WITHIN THE AREA BETWEEN THE PROVING GROUND AND THE COLORADO RIVER AREAS NORTH OF BETWEEN HIGHWAY 10 AND THE PRESENT KOFA GAME REFUGE THAT WILL BE LOCKED AWAY FROM FUTURE CLAIMS. IN OTHER WORDS, IT WILL NO LONGER BE MULTIPLE USE; WHEREAS, AT THE PRESENT IT IS MULTIPLE USE.

TODAY IF SOMEONE GOES OUT THERE AND FINDS SOMETHING REAL WORTHWHILE, THEY CAN PUT A CLAIM ON IT. AFTER THE ACTION THAT YOU HAVE PROPOSED HERE, DID I UNDERSTAND IT CORRECTLY, THEN IT WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE, REGARDLESS OF HOW VALUABLE A THING YOU FIND OUT THERE. IT WILL OF IMPOSSIBLE TO PUT A CLAIM ON IT. IT WILL NOT BE MULTIPLE USE, JUST AS IN THE PRESENT KOFA GAME REFUGE, THE LAND THAT IS IN THE GAME REFUGE NOW CAN ONLY BE MINED, ONLY THOSE MINES CAN BE MINED THAT WERE ESTABLISHED BEFORE 1974,



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AND I'M WORRIED FOR FEAR WE ARE LOCKING SOME THINGS OUT THAT IN FIVE YEARS, TEN YEARS, WITH ADVANCED GEOCHEMICAL AND OTHER SPECIAL GEOPHYSICAL METHODS OF TESTING, WE WILL DISCOVER THAT THERE IS SOMETHING, PERHAPS A LARGE COPPER DEPOSIT OR SOMETHING ELSE THAT THIS COUNTRY NEEDS.

SO I HESITATE TO SEE IT LOCKED AWAY. AND THAT WAS THE REASON I WANTED TO MAKE THIS PARTICULAR STATEMENT.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU, MR. BIRDICK. KEN OMEY.

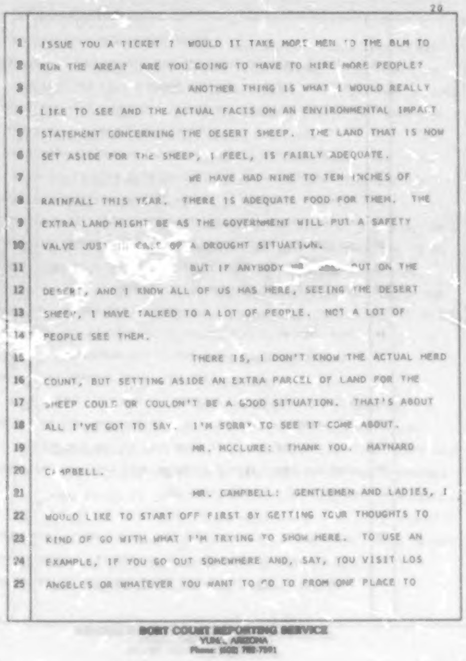
C2

MR. OMEY: I'M NOT A VERY GOOD SPEAKER. MY NAME IS KEN OMEY. I HAVE BEEN IN YUMA EIGHT YEARS AND I AM PRIMARILY CONCERNED WITH MINING CLAIMS, THE SAME AS MR. BIRDICK, AS BEING AS WE HAVE SEEN THAT THE GOVERNMENT TENDS TO TAKE A LITTLE LAND AND TURN IT INTO WILD LIFE REFUGES, TO WHATEVER ELSE USE THEY WANT TO PUT IT TO AND CLOSE OUT THE LITTLE MAN THAT IS OUT THERE ACTUALLY USING THE LAND ITSELF, PUTTING IT TO A GOOD PURPOSE.

1

I AM ALSO CONCERNED WITH THE ECONOMIC COST IN ENFORCING SOME OF THE AREAS THAT IS ACTUALLY UP FOR PROPOSAL. ONE THAT COMES TO MIND IS KIND OF A SMALL THING, WOULD BE THE FIREWOOD COLLECTION ISSUE.

SAY, IF YOU ARE CAMPING AND YOU HAVE A FAIRLY WELL-TO-DO OR SET CAMPING SPOT, HOW WILL THEY ENFORCE THE ISSUE OF YOU COLLECTING WOOD ON THE AREA? WOULD THEY



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ISSUE YOU A TICKET ? WOULD IT TAKE MORE MEN TO THE BLM TO RUN THE AREA? ARE YOU GOING TO HAVE TO HIRE MORE PEOPLE?

ANOTHER THING IS WHAT I WOULD REALLY LIKE TO SEE AND THE ACTUAL FACTS ON AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT CONCERNING THE DESERT SHEEP. THE LAND THAT IS NOW SET ASIDE FOR THE SHEEP, I FEEL, IS FAIRLY ADEQUATE.

WE HAVE HAD NINE TO TEN INCHES OF RAINFALL THIS YEAR. THERE IS ADEQUATE FOOD FOR THEM. THE EXTRA LAND MIGHT BE AS THE GOVERNMENT WILL PUT A SAFETY VALVE JUST IN CASE OF A DROUGHT SITUATION.

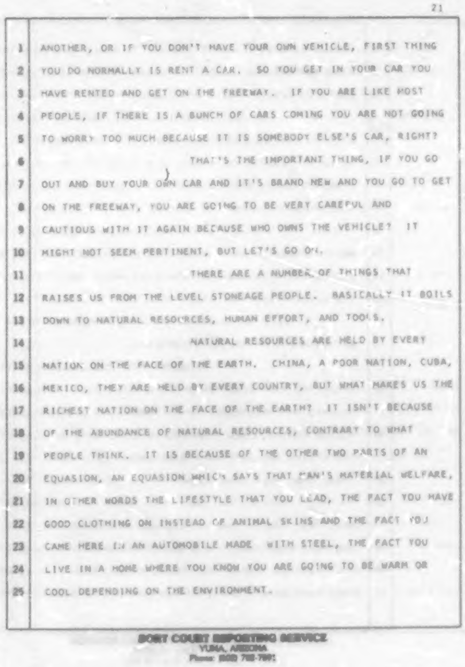
BUT IF ANYBODY [illegible] OUT ON THE DESERT, AND I KNOW ALL OF US HAS HERE, SEEING THE DESERT SHEEP, I HAVE TALKED TO A LOT OF PEOPLE. NOT A LOT OF PEOPLE SEE THEM.

THERE IS, I DON'T KNOW THE ACTUAL HERD COUNT, BUT SETTING ASIDE AN EXTRA PARCEL OF LAND FOR THE SHEEP COULD OR COULDN'T BE A GOOD SITUATION. THAT'S ABOUT ALL I'VE GOT TO SAY. I'M SORRY TO SEE IT COME ABOUT.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. MAYNARD CAMPBELL.

C3

MR. CAMPBELL: GENTLEMEN AND LADIES, I WOULD LIKE TO START OFF FIRST BY GETTING YOUR THOUGHTS TO KIND OF GO WITH WHAT I'M TRYING TO SHOW HERE. TO USE AN EXAMPLE, IF YOU GO OUT SOMEWHERE AND, SAY, YOU VISIT LOS ANGELES OR WHATEVER YOU WANT TO GO TO FROM ONE PLACE TO



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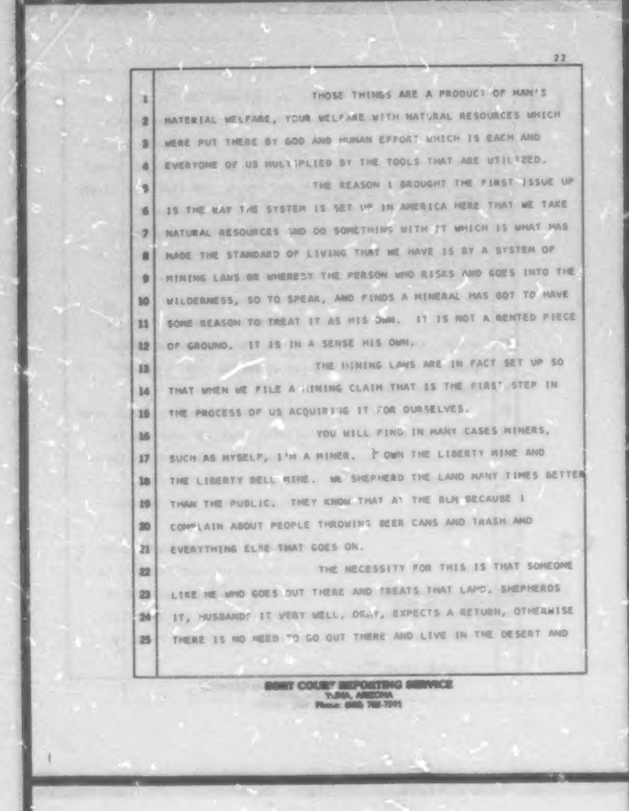
ANOTHER, OR IF YOU DON'T HAVE YOUR OWN VEHICLE, FIRST THING YOU DO NORMALLY IS RENT A CAR. SO YOU GET IN YOUR CAR YOU HAVE RENTED AND GET ON THE FREEWAY. IF YOU ARE LIKE MOST PEOPLE, IF THERE IS A BUNCH OF CARS COMING YOU ARE NOT GOING TO WORRY TOO MUCH BECAUSE IT IS SOMEBODY ELSE'S CAR, RIGHT?

THAT'S THE IMPORTANT THING, IF YOU GO OUT AND BUY YOUR OWN CAR AND IT'S BRAND NEW AND YOU GO TO GET ON THE FREEWAY, YOU ARE GOING TO BE VERY CAREFUL AND CAUTIOUS WITH IT AGAIN BECAUSE WHO OWNS THE VEHICLE? IT MIGHT NOT SEEM PERTINENT, BUT LET'S GO ON.

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF THINGS THAT RAISES US FROM THE LEVEL STONEAGE PEOPLE. BASICALLY IT BOILS DOWN TO NATURAL RESOURCES, HUMAN EFFORT, AND TOOLS.

NATURAL RESOURCES ARE HELD BY EVERY NATION ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH. CHINA, A POOR NATION, CUBA, MEXICO, THEY ARE HELD BY EVERY COUNTRY, BUT WHAT MAKES US THE RICHEST NATION ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH? IT ISN'T BECAUSE OF THE ABUNDANCE OF NATURAL RESOURCES, CONTRARY TO WHAT PEOPLE THINK. IT IS BECAUSE OF THE OTHER TWO PARTS OF AN EQUASION, AN EQUASION WHICH SAYS THAT MAN'S MATERIAL WELFARE, IN OTHER WORDS THE LIFESTYLE THAT YOU LEAD, THE FACT YOU HAVE GOOD CLOTHING ON INSTEAD OF ANIMAL SKINS AND THE FACT YOU CAME HERE IN AN AUTOMOBILE MADE WITH STEEL, THE FACT YOU LIVE IN A HOME WHERE YOU KNOW YOU ARE GOING TO BE WARM OR COOL DEPENDING ON THE ENVIRONMENT.



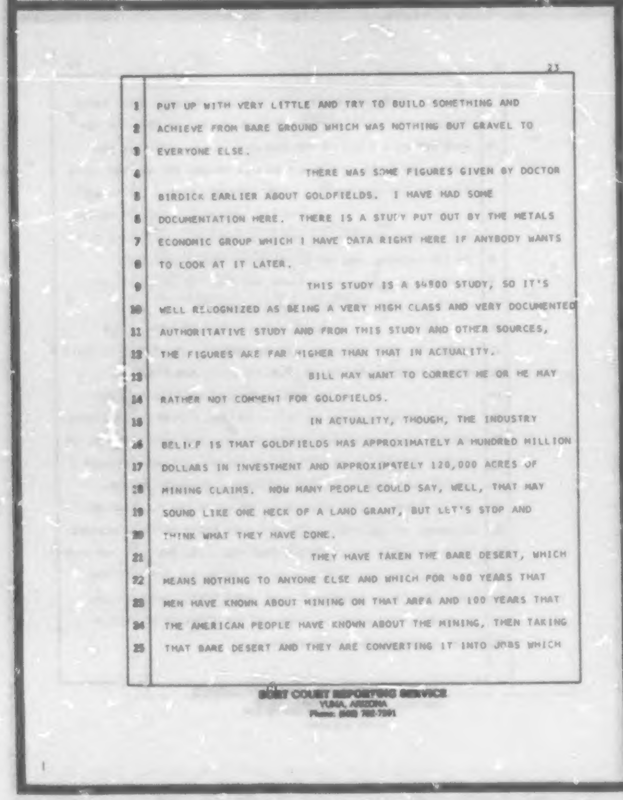
THOSE THINGS ARE A PRODUCT OF MAN'S MATERIAL WELFARE, YOUR WELFARE WITH NATURAL RESOURCES WHICH WERE PUT THERE BY GOD AND HUMAN EFFORT WHICH IS EACH AND EVERYONE OF US MULTIPLIED BY THE TOOLS THAT ARE UTILIZED.

THE REASON I BROUGHT THE FIRST ISSUE UP IS THE WAY THE SYSTEM IS SET UP IN AMERICA HERE THAT WE TAKE NATURAL RESOURCES AND DO SOMETHING WITH IT WHICH IS WHAT HAS MADE THE STANDARD OF LIVING THAT WE HAVE IS BY A SYSTEM OF MINING LAWS OR WHEREBY THE PERSON WHO RISKS AND GOES INTO THE WILDERNESS, SO TO SPEAK, AND FINDS A MINERAL HAS GOT TO HAVE SOME REASON TO TREAT IT AS HIS OWN. IT IS NOT A RENTED PIECE OF GROUND. IT IS IN A SENSE HIS OWN.

THE MINING LAWS ARE IN FACT SET UP SO THAT WHEN WE FILE A MINING CLAIM THAT IS THE FIRST STEP IN THE PROCESS OF US ACQUIRING IT FOR OURSELVES.

YOU WILL FIND IN MANY CASES MINERS, SUCH AS MYSELF, I'M A MINER. I OWN THE LIBERTY MINE AND THE LIBERTY BELL MINE. WE SHEPHERD THE LAND MANY TIMES BETTER THAN THE PUBLIC. THEY KNOW THAT AT THE BLM BECAUSE I COMPLAIN ABOUT PEOPLE THROWING BEER CANS AND TRASH AND EVERYTHING ELSE THAT GOES ON.

THE NECESSITY FOR THIS IS THAT SOMEONE LIKE ME WHO GOES OUT THERE AND TREATS THAT LAND, SHEPHERDS IT, HUSBANDS IT VERY WELL, OKAY, EXPECTS A RETURN, OTHERWISE THERE IS NO NEED TO GO OUT THERE AND LIVE IN THE DESERT AND



PUT UP WITH VERY LITTLE AND TRY TO BUILD SOMETHING AND ACHIEVE FROM BARE GROUND WHICH WAS NOTHING BUT GRAVEL TO EVERYONE ELSE.

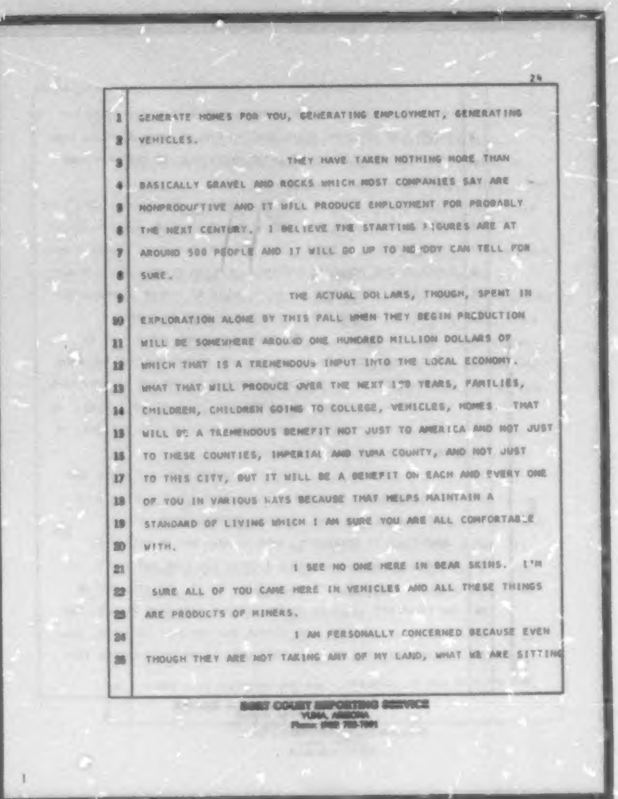
THERE WAS SOME FIGURES GIVEN BY DOCTOR BIRDICK EARLIER ABOUT GOLDFIELDS. I HAVE HAD SOME DOCUMENTATION HERE. THERE IS A STUDY PUT OUT BY THE METALS ECONOMIC GROUP WHICH I HAVE DATA RIGHT HERE IF ANYBODY WANTS TO LOOK AT IT LATER.

THIS STUDY IS A $4500 STUDY, SO IT'S WELL RECOGNIZED AS BEING A VERY HIGH CLASS AND VERY DOCUMENTED AUTHORITATIVE STUDY AND FROM THIS STUDY AND OTHER SOURCES, THE FIGURES ARE FAR HIGHER THAN THAT IN ACTUALITY.

BILL MAY WANT TO CORRECT ME OR HE MAY RATHER NOT COMMENT FOR GOLDFIELDS.

IN ACTUALITY, THOUGH, THE INDUSTRY BELIEF IS THAT GOLDFIELDS HAS APPROXIMATELY A HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS IN INVESTMENT AND APPROXIMATELY 120,000 ACRES OF MINING CLAIMS. NOW MANY PEOPLE COULD SAY, WELL, THAT MAY SOUND LIKE ONE HECK OF A LAND GRANT, BUT LET'S STOP AND THINK WHAT THEY HAVE DONE.

THEY HAVE TAKEN THE BARE DESERT, WHICH MEANS NOTHING TO ANYONE ELSE AND WHICH FOR 400 YEARS THAT MEN HAVE KNOWN ABOUT MINING ON THAT AREA AND 100 YEARS THAT THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE KNOWN ABOUT THE MINING, THEN TAKING THAT BARE DESERT AND THEY ARE CONVERTING IT INTO JOBS WHICH



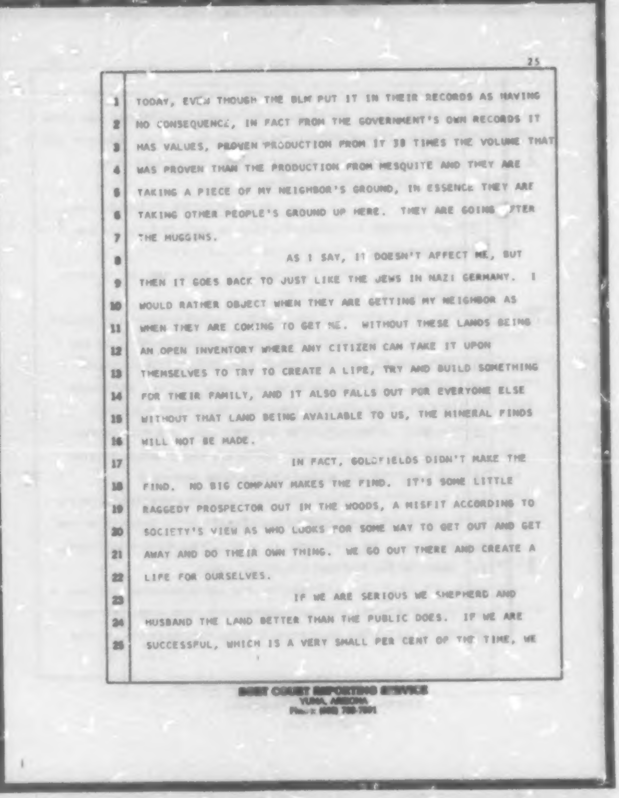
GENERATE HOMES FOR YOU, GENERATING EMPLOYMENT, GENERATING VEHICLES.

THEY HAVE TAKEN NOTHING MORE THAN BASICALLY GRAVEL AND ROCKS WHICH MOST COMPANIES SAY ARE NONPRODUCTIVE AND IT WILL PRODUCE EMPLOYMENT FOR PROBABLY THE NEXT CENTURY. I BELIEVE THE STARTING FIGURES ARE AT AROUND 500 PEOPLE AND IT WILL GO UP TO NOBODY CAN TELL FOR SURE.

THE ACTUAL DOLLARS, THOUGH, SPENT IN EXPLORATION ALONE BY THIS FALL WHEN THEY BEGIN PRODUCTION WILL BE SOMEWHERE AROUND ONE HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS OF WHICH THAT IS A TREMENDOUS INPUT INTO THE LOCAL ECONOMY. WHAT THAT WILL PRODUCE OVER THE NEXT 1[illegible]0 YEARS, FAMILIES, CHILDREN, CHILDREN GOING TO COLLEGE, VEHICLES, HOMES. THAT WILL BE A TREMENDOUS BENEFIT NOT JUST TO AMERICA AND NOT JUST TO THESE COUNTIES, IMPERIAL AND YUMA COUNTY, AND NOT JUST TO THIS CITY, BUT IT WILL BE A BENEFIT ON EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU IN VARIOUS WAYS BECAUSE THAT HELPS MAINTAIN A STANDARD OF LIVING WHICH I AM SURE YOU ARE ALL COMFORTABLE WITH.

I SEE NO ONE HERE IN BEAR SKINS. I'M SURE ALL OF YOU CAME HERE IN VEHICLES AND ALL THESE THINGS ARE PRODUCTS OF MINERS.

I AM PERSONALLY CONCERNED BECAUSE EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE NOT TAKING ANY OF MY LAND, WHAT WE ARE SITTING

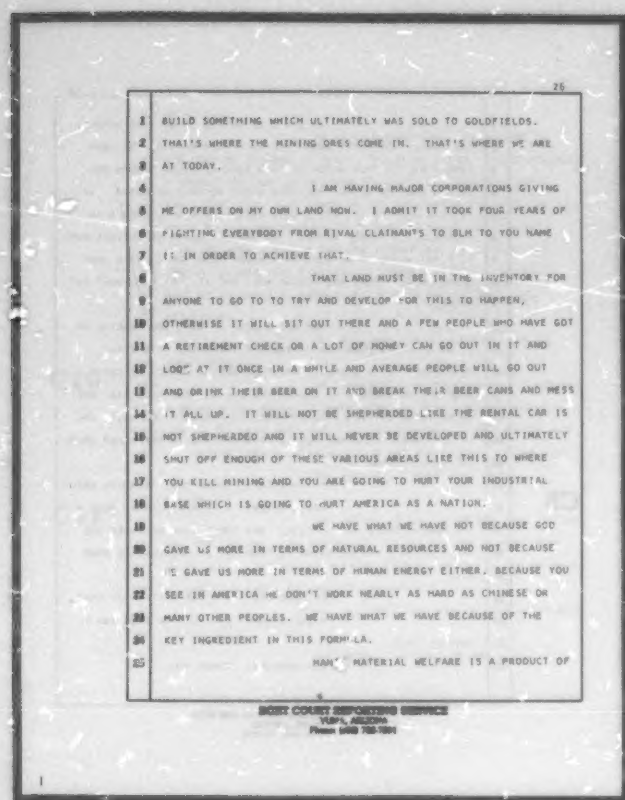


TODAY, EVEN THOUGH THE BLM PUT IT IN THEIR RECORDS AS HAVING NO CONSEQUENCE, IN FACT FROM THE GOVERNMENT'S OWN RECORDS IT HAS VALUES, PROVEN PRODUCTION FROM IT 38 TIMES THE VOLUME THAT WAS PROVEN THAN THE PRODUCTION FROM MESQUITE AND THEY ARE TAKING A PIECE OF MY NEIGHBOR'S GROUND, IN ESSENCE THEY ARE TAKING OTHER PEOPLE'S GROUND UP HERE. THEY ARE GOING AFTER THE MUGGINS.

AS I SAY, IT DOESN'T AFFECT ME, BUT THEN IT GOES BACK TO JUST LIKE THE JEWS IN NAZI GERMANY. I WOULD RATHER OBJECT WHEN THEY ARE GETTING MY NEIGHBOR AS WHEN THEY ARE COMING TO GET ME. WITHOUT THESE LANDS BEING AN OPEN INVENTORY WHERE ANY CITIZEN CAN TAKE IT UPON THEMSELVES TO TRY TO CREATE A LIFE, TRY AND BUILD SOMETHING FOR THEIR FAMILY, AND IT ALSO FALLS OUT FOR EVERYONE ELSE WITHOUT THAT LAND BEING AVAILABLE TO US, THE MINERAL FINDS WILL NOT BE MADE.

IN FACT, GOLDFIELDS DIDN'T MAKE THE FIND. NO BIG COMPANY MAKES THE FIND. IT'S SOME LITTLE RAGGEDY PROSPECTOR OUT IN THE WOODS, A MISFIT ACCORDING TO SOCIETY'S VIEW AS WHO LOOKS FOR SOME WAY TO GET OUT AND GET AWAY AND DO THEIR OWN THING. WE GO OUT THERE AND CREATE A LIFE FOR OURSELVES.

IF WE ARE SERIOUS WE SHEPHERD AND HUSBAND THE LAND BETTER THAN THE PUBLIC DOES. IF WE ARE SUCCESSFUL, WHICH IS A VERY SMALL PER CENT OF THE TIME, WE



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BUILD SOMETHING WHICH ULTIMATELY WAS SOLD TO GOLDFIELDS. THAT'S WHERE THE MINING ORES COME IN. THAT'S WHERE WE ARE AT TODAY.

I AM HAVING MAJOR CORPORATIONS GIVING ME OFFERS ON MY OWN LAND NOW. I ADMIT IT TOOK FOUR YEARS OF FIGHTING EVERYBODY FROM RIVAL CLAIMANTS TO BLM TO YOU NAME IT IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THAT.

THAT LAND MUST BE IN THE INVENTORY FOR ANYONE TO GO TO TO TRY AND DEVELOP FOR THIS TO HAPPEN, OTHERWISE IT WILL SIT OUT THERE AND A FEW PEOPLE WHO HAVE GOT A RETIREMENT CHECK OR A LOT OF MONEY CAN GO OUT IN IT AND LOOK AT IT ONCE IN A WHILE AND AVERAGE PEOPLE WILL GO OUT AND DRINK THEIR BEER ON IT AND BREAK THEIR BEER CANS AND MESS IT ALL UP. IT WILL NOT BE SHEPHERDED LIKE THE RENTAL CAR IS NOT SHEPHERDED AND IT WILL NEVER BE DEVELOPED AND ULTIMATELY SHUT OFF ENOUGH OF THESE VARIOUS AREAS LIKE THIS TO WHERE YOU KILL MINING AND YOU ARE GOING TO HURT YOUR INDUSTRIAL BASE WHICH IS GOING TO HURT AMERICA AS A NATION.

WE HAVE WHAT WE HAVE NOT BECAUSE GOD GAVE US MORE IN TERMS OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND NOT BECAUSE HE GAVE US MORE IN TERMS OF HUMAN ENERGY EITHER, BECAUSE YOU SEE IN AMERICA WE DON'T WORK NEARLY AS HARD AS CHINESE OR MANY OTHER PEOPLES. WE HAVE WHAT WE HAVE BECAUSE OF THE KEY INGREDIENT IN THIS FORMULA.

MAN'S MATERIAL WELFARE IS A PRODUCT OF

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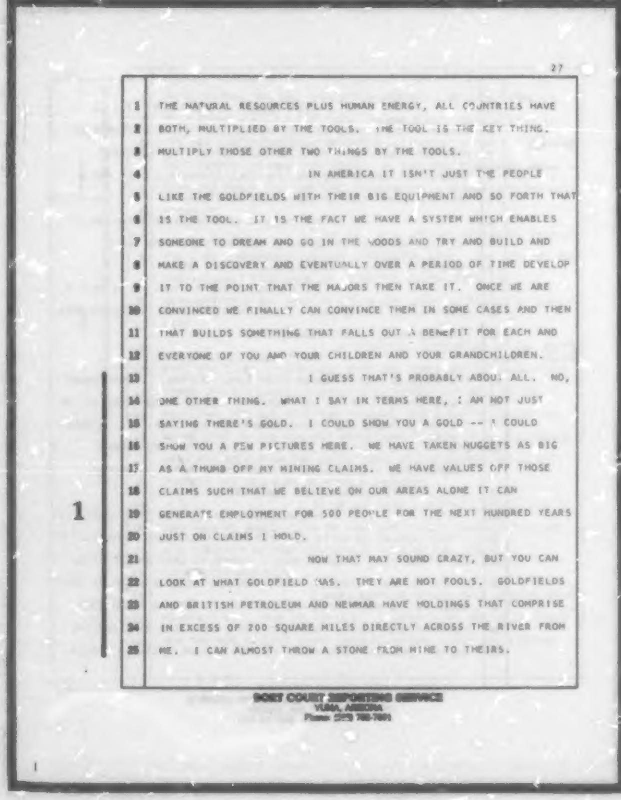

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THE NATURAL RESOURCES PLUS HUMAN ENERGY, ALL COUNTRIES HAVE BOTH, MULTIPLIED BY THE TOOLS. THE TOOL IS THE KEY THING. MULTIPLY THOSE OTHER TWO THINGS BY THE TOOLS.

IN AMERICA IT ISN'T JUST THE PEOPLE LIKE THE GOLDFIELDS WITH THEIR BIG EQUIPMENT AND SO FORTH THAT IS THE TOOL. IT IS THE FACT WE HAVE A SYSTEM WHICH ENABLES SOMEONE TO DREAM AND GO IN THE WOODS AND TRY AND BUILD AND MAKE A DISCOVERY AND EVENTUALLY OVER A PERIOD OF TIME DEVELOP IT TO THE POINT THAT THE MAJORS THEN TAKE IT. ONCE WE ARE CONVINCED WE FINALLY CAN CONVINCE THEM IN SOME CASES AND THEN THAT BUILDS SOMETHING THAT FALLS OUT A BENEFIT FOR EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU AND YOUR CHILDREN AND YOUR GRANDCHILDREN.

1

I GUESS THAT'S PROBABLY ABOUT ALL. NO, ONE OTHER THING. WHAT I SAY IN TERMS HERE, I AM NOT JUST SAYING THERE'S GOLD. I COULD SHOW YOU A GOLD -- I COULD SHOW YOU A FEW PICTURES HERE. WE HAVE TAKEN NUGGETS AS BIG AS A THUMB OFF MY MINING CLAIMS. WE HAVE VALUES OFF THOSE CLAIMS SUCH THAT WE BELIEVE ON OUR AREAS ALONE IT CAN GENERATE EMPLOYMENT FOR 500 PEOPLE FOR THE NEXT HUNDRED YEARS JUST ON CLAIMS I HOLD.

NOW THAT MAY SOUND CRAZY, BUT YOU CAN LOOK AT WHAT GOLDFIELD HAS. THEY ARE NOT FOOLS. GOLDFIELDS AND BRITISH PETROLEUM AND NEWMAR HAVE HOLDINGS THAT COMPRISE IN EXCESS OF 200 SQUARE MILES DIRECTLY ACROSS THE RIVER FROM ME. I CAN ALMOST THROW A STONE FROM MINE TO THEIRS.

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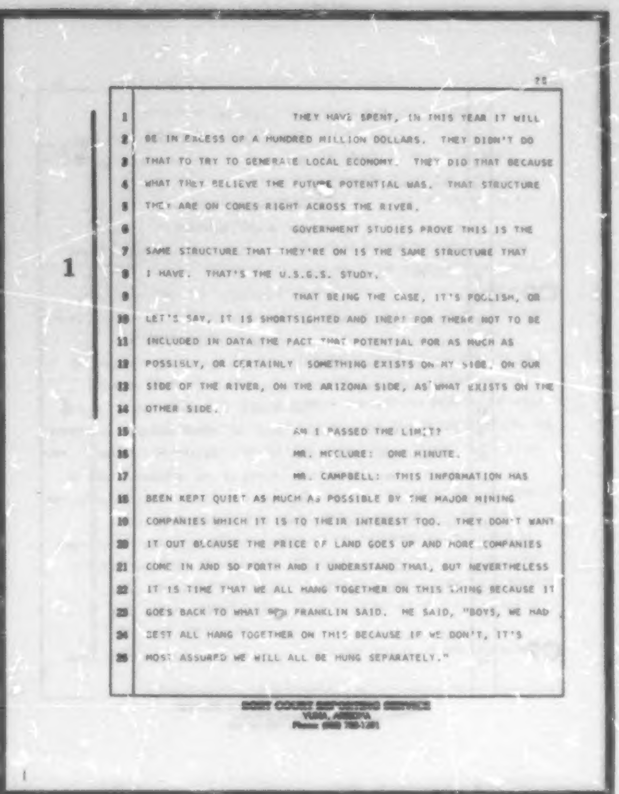

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THEY HAVE SPENT, IN THIS YEAR IT WILL BE IN EXCESS OF A HUNDRED MILLION DOLLARS. THEY DIDN'T DO THAT TO TRY TO GENERATE LOCAL ECONOMY. THEY DID THAT BECAUSE WHAT THEY BELIEVE THE FUTURE POTENTIAL WAS. THAT STRUCTURE THEY ARE ON COMES RIGHT ACROSS THE RIVER.

GOVERNMENT STUDIES PROVE THIS IS THE SAME STRUCTURE THAT THEY'RE ON IS THE SAME STRUCTURE THAT I HAVE. THAT'S THE U.S.G.S. STUDY.

THAT BEING THE CASE, IT'S FOOLISH, OR LET'S SAY, IT IS SHORTSIGHTED AND INEPT FOR THERE NOT TO BE INCLUDED IN DATA THE FACT THAT POTENTIAL FOR AS MUCH AS POSSIBLY, OR CERTAINLY SOMETHING EXISTS ON MY SIDE, ON OUR SIDE OF THE RIVER, ON THE ARIZONA SIDE, AS WHAT EXISTS ON THE OTHER SIDE.

AM I PASSED THE LIMIT?

MR. MCCLURE: ONE MINUTE.

MR. CAMPBELL: THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN KEPT QUIET AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE BY THE MAJOR MINING COMPANIES WHICH IT IS TO THEIR INTEREST TOO. THEY DON'T WANT IT OUT BECAUSE THE PRICE OF LAND GOES UP AND MORE COMPANIES COME IN AND SO FORTH AND I UNDERSTAND THAT, BUT NEVERTHELESS IT IS TIME THAT WE ALL HANG TOGETHER ON THIS THING BECAUSE IT GOES BACK TO WHAT BEN FRANKLIN SAID. HE SAID, "BOYS, WE HAD BEST ALL HANG TOGETHER ON THIS BECAUSE IF WE DON'T, IT'S MOST ASSURED WE WILL ALL BE HUNG SEPARATELY."

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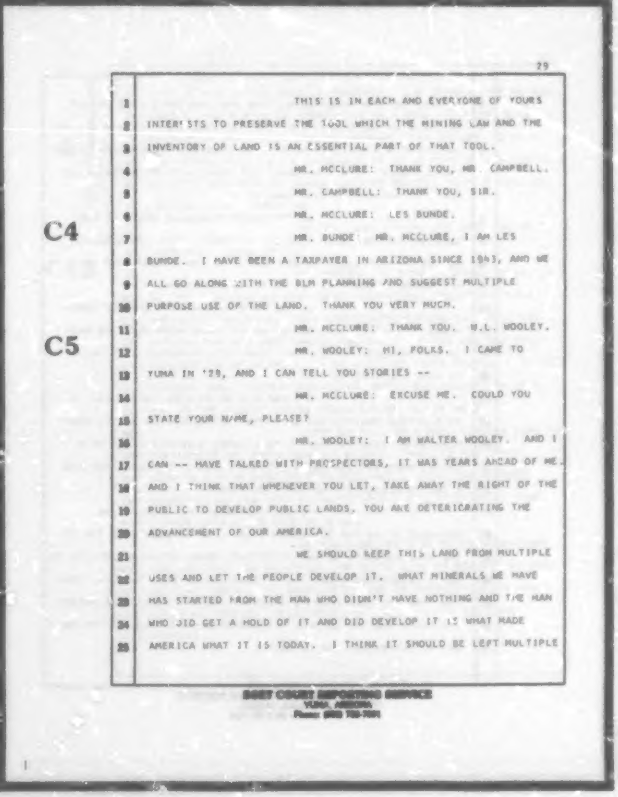

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THIS IS IN EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOURS INTERESTS TO PRESERVE THE TOOL WHICH THE MINING LAW AND THE INVENTORY OF LAND IS AN ESSENTIAL PART OF THAT TOOL.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU, MR. CAMPBELL.

MR. CAMPBELL: THANK YOU, SIR.

MR. MCCLURE: LES BUNDE.

C4

MR. BUNDE: MR. MCCLURE, I AM LES BUNDE. I HAVE BEEN A TAXPAYER IN ARIZONA SINCE 1943, AND WE ALL GO ALONG WITH THE BLM PLANNING AND SUGGEST MULTIPLE PURPOSE USE OF THE LAND. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. W.L. WOOLEY.

C5

MR. WOOLEY: HI, FOLKS. I CAME TO YUMA IN '29, AND I CAN TELL YOU STORIES --

MR. MCCLURE: EXCUSE ME. COULD YOU STATE YOUR NAME, PLEASE?

MR. WOOLEY: I AM WALTER WOOLEY. AND I CAN -- HAVE TALKED WITH PROSPECTORS, IT WAS YEARS AHEAD OF ME. AND I THINK THAT WHENEVER YOU LET, TAKE AWAY THE RIGHT OF THE PUBLIC TO DEVELOP PUBLIC LANDS, YOU ARE DETERIORATING THE ADVANCEMENT OF OUR AMERICA.

WE SHOULD KEEP THIS LAND FROM MULTIPLE USES AND LET THE PEOPLE DEVELOP IT. WHAT MINERALS WE HAVE HAS STARTED FROM THE MAN WHO DIDN'T HAVE NOTHING AND THE MAN WHO DID GET A HOLD OF IT AND DID DEVELOP IT IS WHAT MADE AMERICA WHAT IT IS TODAY. I THINK IT SHOULD BE LEFT MULTIPLE

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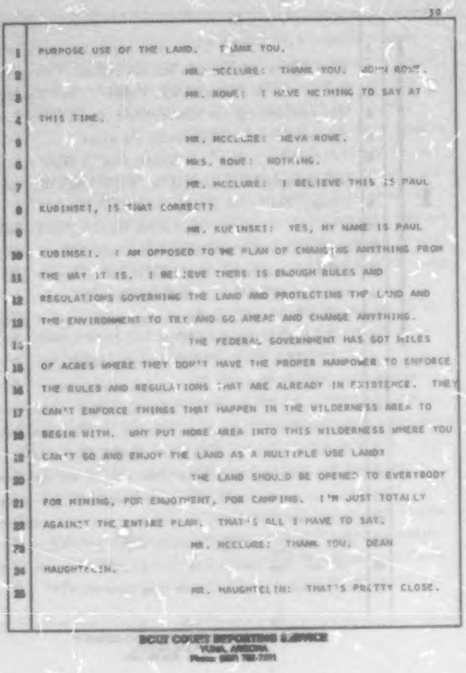

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PURPOSE USE OF THE LAND. THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. JOHN ROWE.

MR. ROWE: I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY AT THIS TIME.

MR. MCCLURE: NEVA ROWE.

MRS. ROWE: NOTHING.

MR. MCCLURE: I BELIEVE THIS IS PAUL KUBINSKI, IS THAT CORRECT?

C6

MR. KUPINSKI: YES, MY NAME IS PAUL KUBINSKI. I AM OPPOSED TO THE PLAN OF CHANGING ANYTHING FROM THE WAY IT IS. I BELIEVE THERE IS ENOUGH RULES AND REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE LAND AND PROTECTING THE LAND AND THE ENVIRONMENT TO TRY AND GO AHEAD AND CHANGE ANYTHING.

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS GOT MILES OF ACRES WHERE THEY DON'T HAVE THE PROPER MANPOWER TO ENFORCE THE RULES AND REGULATIONS THAT ARE ALREADY IN EXISTENCE. THEY CAN'T ENFORCE THINGS THAT HAPPEN IN THE WILDERNESS AREA TO BEGIN WITH. WHY PUT MORE AREA INTO THIS WILDERNESS WHERE YOU CAN'T GO AND ENJOY THE LAND AS A MULTIPLE USE LAND?

THE LAND SHOULD BE OPENED TO EVERYBODY FOR MINING, FOR ENJOYMENT, FOR CAMPING. I'M JUST TOTALLY AGAINST THE ENTIRE PLAN. THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. DEAN MAUGHTELIN.

C7

MR. MAUGHTELIN: THAT'S PRETTY CLOSE.

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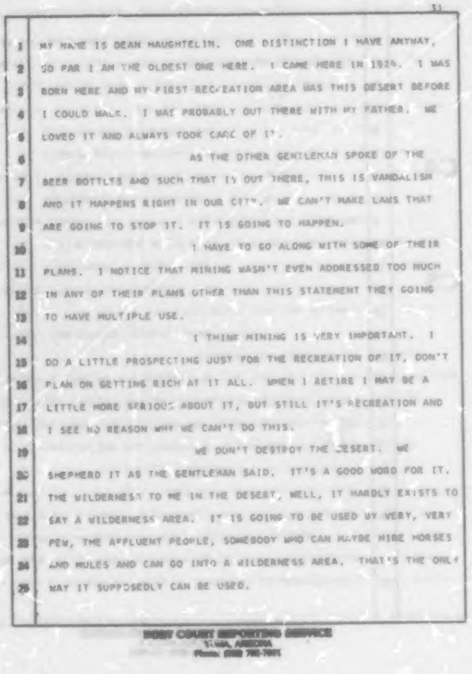

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MY NAME IS DEAN MAUGHTELIN. ONE DISTINCTION I HAVE ANYWAY, SO FAR I AM THE OLDEST ONE HERE. I CAME HERE IN 1924. I WAS BORN HERE AND MY FIRST RECREATION AREA WAS THIS DESERT BEFORE I COULD WALK. I WAS PROBABLY OUT THERE WITH MY FATHER. WE LOVED IT AND ALWAYS TOOK CARE OF IT.

AS THE OTHER GENTLEMAN SPOKE OF THE BEER BOTTLES AND SUCH THAT IS OUT THERE, THIS IS VANDALISM AND IT HAPPENS RIGHT IN OUR CITY. WE CAN'T MAKE LAWS THAT ARE GOING TO STOP IT. IT IS GOING TO HAPPEN.

I HAVE TO GO ALONG WITH SOME OF THEIR PLANS. I NOTICE THAT MINING WASN'T EVEN ADDRESSED TOO MUCH IN ANY OF THEIR PLANS OTHER THAN THIS STATEMENT THEY GOING TO HAVE MULTIPLE USE.

I THINK MINING IS VERY IMPORTANT. I DO A LITTLE PROSPECTING JUST FOR THE RECREATION OF IT, DON'T PLAN ON GETTING RICH AT IT ALL. WHEN I RETIRE I MAY BE A LITTLE MORE SERIOUS ABOUT IT, BUT STILL IT'S RECREATION AND I SEE NO REASON WHY WE CAN'T DO THIS.

WE DON'T DESTROY THE DESERT. WE SHEPHERD IT AS THE GENTLEMAN SAID. IT'S A GOOD WORD FOR IT. THE WILDERNESS TO ME IN THE DESERT, WELL, IT HARDLY EXISTS TO SAY A WILDERNESS AREA. IT IS GOING TO BE USED BY VERY, VERY FEW, THE AFFLUENT PEOPLE, SOMEBODY WHO CAN MAYBE HIRE HORSES AND MULES AND CAN GO INTO A WILDERNESS AREA. THAT'S THE ONLY WAY IT SUPPOSEDLY CAN BE USED.

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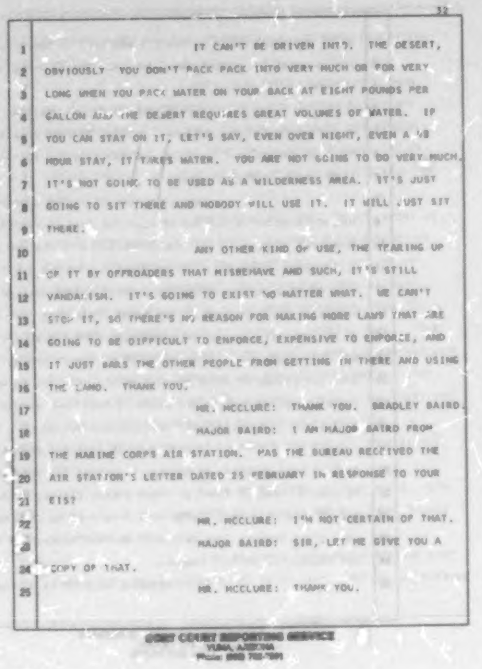

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IT CAN'T BE DRIVEN INTO. THE DESERT, OBVIOUSLY YOU DON'T PACK PACK INTO VERY MUCH OR FOR VERY LONG WHEN YOU PACK WATER ON YOUR BACK AT EIGHT POUNDS PER GALLON AND THE DESERT REQUIRES GREAT VOLUMES OF WATER. IF YOU CAN STAY ON IT, LET'S SAY, EVEN OVER NIGHT, EVEN A 48 HOUR STAY, IT TAKES WATER. YOU ARE NOT GOING TO DO VERY MUCH. IT'S NOT GOING TO BE USED AS A WILDERNESS AREA. IT'S JUST GOING TO SIT THERE AND NOBODY WILL USE IT. IT WILL JUST SIT THERE.

ANY OTHER KIND OF USE, THE TEARING UP OF IT BY OFFROADERS THAT MISBEHAVE AND SUCH, IT'S STILL VANDALISM. IT'S GOING TO EXIST NO MATTER WHAT. WE CAN'T STOP IT, SO THERE'S NO REASON FOR MAKING MORE LAWS THAT ARE GOING TO BE DIFFICULT TO ENFORCE, EXPENSIVE TO ENFORCE, AND IT JUST BARS THE OTHER PEOPLE FROM GETTING IN THERE AND USING THE LAND. THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. BRADLEY BAIRD.

C8

MAJOR BAIRD: I AM MAJOR BAIRD FROM THE MARINE CORPS AIR STATION. HAS THE BUREAU RECEIVED THE AIR STATION'S LETTER DATED 25 FEBRUARY IN RESPONSE TO YOUR EIS?

MR. MCCLURE: I'M NOT CERTAIN OF THAT.

MAJOR BAIRD: SIR, LET ME GIVE YOU A COPY OF THAT.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU.

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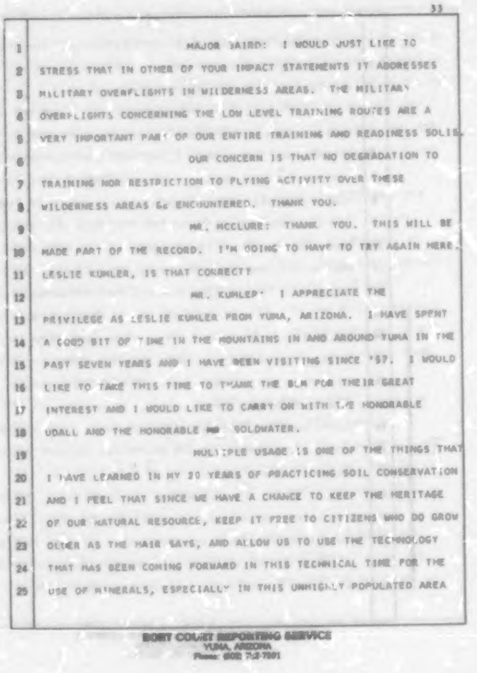

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MAJOR BAIRD: I WOULD JUST LIKE TO STRESS THAT IN OTHER OF YOUR IMPACT STATEMENTS IT ADDRESSES MILITARY OVERFLIGHTS IN WILDERNESS AREAS. THE MILITARY OVERFLIGHTS CONCERNING THE LOW LEVEL TRAINING ROUTES ARE A VERY IMPORTANT PART OF OUR ENTIRE TRAINING AND READINESS SOLIS.

OUR CONCERN IS THAT NO DEGRADATION TO TRAINING NOR RESTRICTION TO FLYING ACTIVITY OVER THESE WILDERNESS AREAS BE ENCOUNTERED. THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. THIS WILL BE MADE PART OF THE RECORD. I'M GOING TO HAVE TO TRY AGAIN HERE. LESLIE KUMLER, IS THAT CORRECT?

C9

MR. KUMLER: I APPRECIATE THE PRIVILEGE AS LESLIE KUMLER FROM YUMA, ARIZONA. I HAVE SPENT A GOOD BIT OF TIME IN THE MOUNTAINS IN AND AROUND YUMA IN THE PAST SEVEN YEARS AND I HAVE BEEN VISITING SINCE '57. I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS TIME TO THANK THE BLM FOR THEIR GREAT INTEREST AND I WOULD LIKE TO CARRY ON WITH THE HONORABLE UDALL AND THE HONORABLE MR. GOLDWATER.

MULTIPLE USAGE IS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT I HAVE LEARNED IN MY 20 YEARS OF PRACTICING SOIL CONSERVATION AND I FEEL THAT SINCE WE HAVE A CHANCE TO KEEP THE HERITAGE OF OUR NATURAL RESOURCE, KEEP IT FREE TO CITIZENS WHO DO GROW OLDER AS THE HAIR SAYS, AND ALLOW US TO USE THE TECHNOLOGY THAT HAS BEEN COMING FORWARD IN THIS TECHNICAL TIME FOR THE USE OF MINERALS, ESPECIALLY IN THIS UNHIGHLY POPULATED AREA

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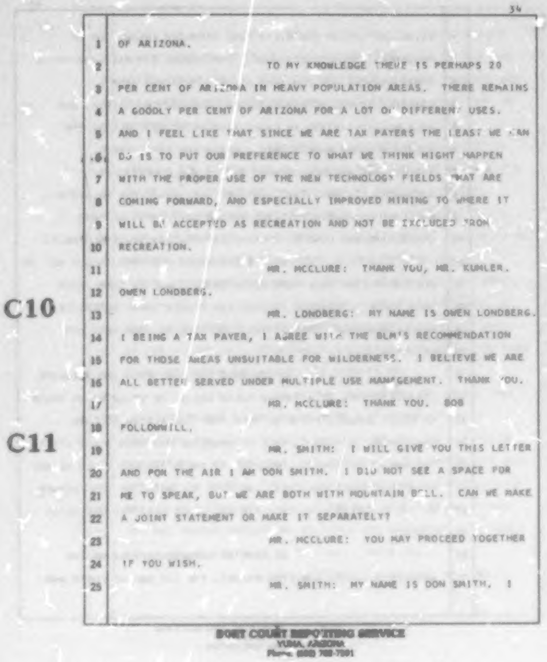

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OF ARIZONA.

TO MY KNOWLEDGE THERE IS PERHAPS 20 PER CENT OF ARIZONA IN HEAVY POPULATION AREAS. THERE REMAINS A GOODLY PER CENT OF ARIZONA FOR A LOT OF DIFFERENT USES. AND I FEEL LIKE THAT SINCE WE ARE TAX PAYERS THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS TO PUT OUR PREFERENCE TO WHAT WE THINK MIGHT HAPPEN WITH THE PROPER USE OF THE NEW TECHNOLOGY FIELDS THAT ARE COMING FORWARD, AND ESPECIALLY IMPROVED MINING TO WHERE IT WILL BE ACCEPTED AS RECREATION AND NOT BE EXCLUDED FROM RECREATION.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU, MR. KUMLER. OWEN LONDBERG.

C10

MR. LONDBERG: MY NAME IS OWEN LONDBERG. I BEING A TAX PAYER, I AGREE WITH THE BLM'S RECOMMENDATION FOR THOSE AREAS UNSUITABLE FOR WILDERNESS. I BELIEVE WE ARE ALL BETTER SERVED UNDER MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT. THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. BOB FOLLOWWILL.

C11

MR. SMITH: I WILL GIVE YOU THIS LETTER AND FOR THE AIR I AM DON SMITH. I DID NOT SEE A SPACE FOR ME TO SPEAK, BUT WE ARE BOTH WITH MOUNTAIN BELL. CAN WE MAKE A JOINT STATEMENT OR MAKE IT SEPARATELY?

MR. MCCLURE: YOU MAY PROCEED TOGETHER IF YOU WISH.

MR. SMITH: MY NAME IS DON SMITH. I

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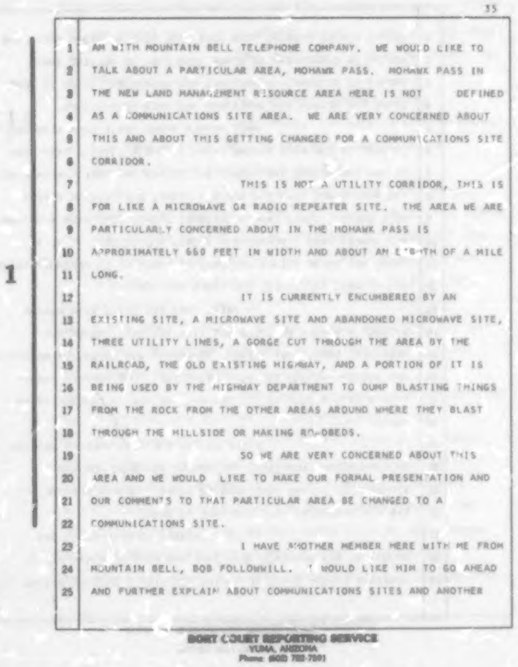

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1

AM WITH MOUNTAIN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY. WE WOULD LIKE TO TALK ABOUT A PARTICULAR AREA, MOHAWK PASS. MOHAWK PASS IN THE NEW LAND MANAGEMENT RESOURCE AREA HERE IS NOT DEFINED AS A COMMUNICATIONS SITE AREA. WE ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS AND ABOUT THIS GETTING CHANGED FOR A COMMUNICATIONS SITE CORRIDOR.

THIS IS NOT A UTILITY CORRIDOR, THIS IS FOR LIKE A MICROWAVE OR RADIO REPEATER SITE. THE AREA WE ARE PARTICULARLY CONCERNED ABOUT IN THE MOHAWK PASS IS APPROXIMATELY 660 FEET IN WIDTH AND ABOUT AN EIGHTH OF A MILE LONG.

IT IS CURRENTLY ENCUMBERED BY AN EXISTING SITE, A MICROWAVE SITE AND ABANDONED MICROWAVE SITE, THREE UTILITY LINES, A GORGE CUT THROUGH THE AREA BY THE RAILROAD, THE OLD EXISTING HIGHWAY, AND A PORTION OF IT IS BEING USED BY THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT TO DUMP BLASTING THINGS FROM THE ROCK FROM THE OTHER AREAS AROUND WHERE THEY BLAST THROUGH THE HILLSIDE OR MAKING ROADBEDS.

SO WE ARE VERY CONCERNED ABOUT THIS AREA AND WE WOULD LIKE TO MAKE OUR FORMAL PRESENTATION AND OUR COMMENTS TO THAT PARTICULAR AREA BE CHANGED TO A COMMUNICATIONS SITE.

I HAVE ANOTHER MEMBER HERE WITH ME FROM MOUNTAIN BELL, BOB FOLLOWWILL. I WOULD LIKE HIM TO GO AHEAD AND FURTHER EXPLAIN ABOUT COMMUNICATIONS SITES AND ANOTHER

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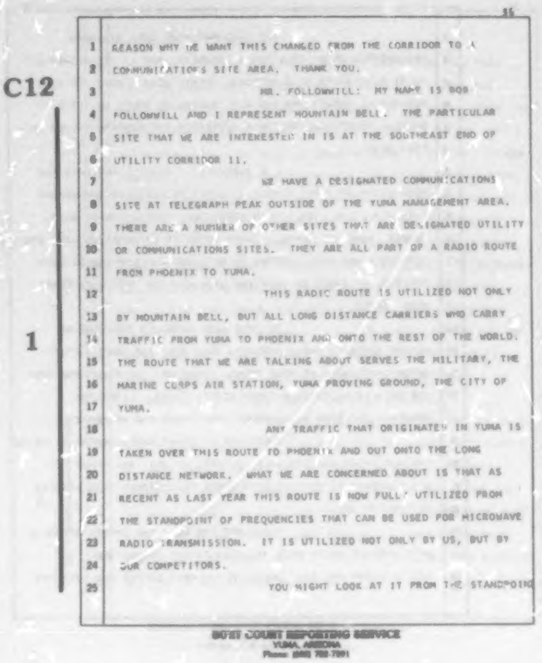

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REASON WHY WE WANT THIS CHANGED FROM THE CORRIDOR TO A COMMUNICATIONS SITE AREA. THANK YOU.

C12

MR. FOLLOWWILL: MY NAME IS BOB FOLLOWWILL AND I REPRESENT MOUNTAIN BELL. THE PARTICULAR SITE THAT WE ARE INTERESTED IN IS AT THE SOUTHEAST END OF UTILITY CORRIDOR 11.

WE HAVE A DESIGNATED COMMUNICATIONS SITE AT TELEGRAPH PEAK OUTSIDE OF THE YUMA MANAGEMENT AREA. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OTHER SITES THAT ARE DESIGNATED UTILITY OR COMMUNICATIONS SITES. THEY ARE ALL PART OF A RADIO ROUTE FROM PHOENIX TO YUMA.

1

THIS RADIO ROUTE IS UTILIZED NOT ONLY BY MOUNTAIN BELL, BUT ALL LONG DISTANCE CARRIERS WHO CARRY TRAFFIC FROM YUMA TO PHOENIX AND ONTO THE REST OF THE WORLD. THE ROUTE THAT WE ARE TALKING ABOUT SERVES THE MILITARY, THE MARINE CORPS AIR STATION, YUMA PROVING GROUND, THE CITY OF YUMA.

ANY TRAFFIC THAT ORIGINATES IN YUMA IS TAKEN OVER THIS ROUTE TO PHOENIX AND OUT ONTO THE LONG DISTANCE NETWORK. WHAT WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT IS THAT AS RECENT AS LAST YEAR THIS ROUTE IS NOW FULLY UTILIZED FROM THE STANDPOINT OF FREQUENCIES THAT CAN BE USED FOR MICROWAVE RADIO TRANSMISSION. IT IS UTILIZED NOT ONLY BY US, BUT BY OUR COMPETITORS.

YOU MIGHT LOOK AT IT FROM THE STANDPOINT

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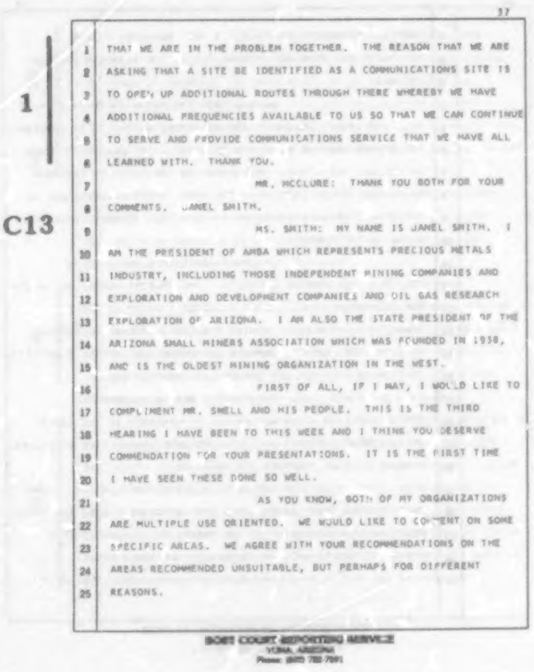

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THAT WE ARE IN THE PROBLEM TOGETHER. THE REASON THAT WE ARE ASKING THAT A SITE BE IDENTIFIED AS A COMMUNICATIONS SITE IS TO OPEN UP ADDITIONAL ROUTES THROUGH THERE WHEREBY WE HAVE ADDITIONAL FREQUENCIES AVAILABLE TO US SO THAT WE CAN CONTINUE TO SERVE AND PROVIDE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICE THAT WE HAVE ALL LEARNED WITH. THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU BOTH FOR YOUR COMMENTS. JANEL SMITH.

C13

MS. SMITH: MY NAME IS JANEL SMITH. I AM THE PRESIDENT OF AMBA WHICH REPRESENTS PRECIOUS METALS INDUSTRY, INCLUDING THOSE INDEPENDENT MINING COMPANIES AND EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMPANIES AND OIL GAS RESEARCH EXPLORATION OF ARIZONA. I AM ALSO THE STATE PRESIDENT OF THE ARIZONA SMALL MINERS ASSOCIATION WHICH WAS FOUNDED IN 1938, AND IS THE OLDEST MINING ORGANIZATION IN THE WEST.

FIRST OF ALL, IF I MAY, I WOULD LIKE TO COMPLIMENT MR. SNELL AND HIS PEOPLE. THIS IS THE THIRD HEARING I HAVE BEEN TO THIS WEEK AND I THINK YOU DESERVE COMMENDATION FOR YOUR PRESENTATIONS. IT IS THE FIRST TIME I HAVE SEEN THESE DONE SO WELL.

AS YOU KNOW, BOTH OF MY ORGANIZATIONS ARE MULTIPLE USE ORIENTED. WE WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON SOME SPECIFIC AREAS. WE AGREE WITH YOUR RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE AREAS RECOMMENDED UNSUITABLE, BUT PERHAPS FOR DIFFERENT REASONS.

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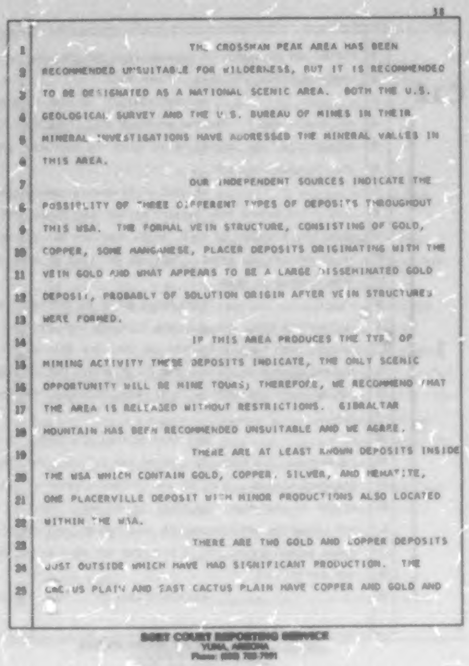


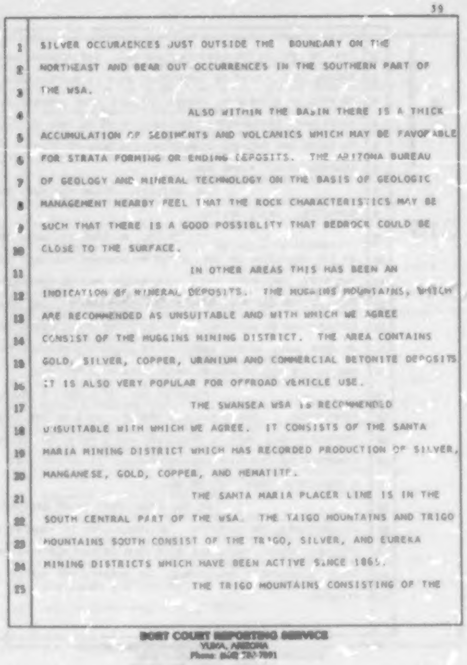
THE CROSSMAN PEAK AREA HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED UNSUITABLE FOR WILDERNESS, BUT IT IS RECOMMENDED TO BE DESIGNATED AS A NATIONAL SCENIC AREA. BOTH THE U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY AND THE U.S. BUREAU OF MINES IN THEIR MINERAL INVESTIGATIONS HAVE ADDRESSED THE MINERAL VALUES IN THIS AREA.

OUR INDEPENDENT SOURCES INDICATE THE POSSIBILITY OF THREE DIFFERENT TYPES OF DEPOSITS THROUGHOUT THIS WSA. THE FORMAL VEIN STRUCTURE, CONSISTING OF GOLD, COPPER, SOME MANGANESE, PLACER DEPOSITS ORIGINATING WITH THE VEIN GOLD AND WHAT APPEARS TO BE A LARGE DISSEMINATED GOLD DEPOSIT, PROBABLY OF SOLUTION ORIGIN AFTER VEIN STRUCTURES WERE FORMED.

IF THIS AREA PRODUCES THE TYPE OF MINING ACTIVITY THESE DEPOSITS INDICATE, THE ONLY SCENIC OPPORTUNITY WILL BE MINE TOURS; THEREFORE, WE RECOMMEND THAT THE AREA IS RELEASED WITHOUT RESTRICTIONS. GIBRALTAR MOUNTAIN HAS BEEN RECOMMENDED UNSUITABLE AND WE AGREE.

THERE ARE AT LEAST KNOWN DEPOSITS INSIDE THE WSA WHICH CONTAIN GOLD, COPPER, SILVER, AND HEMATITE, ONE PLACERVILLE DEPOSIT WITH MINOR PRODUCTIONS ALSO LOCATED WITHIN THE WSA.

THERE ARE TWO GOLD AND COPPER DEPOSITS JUST OUTSIDE WHICH HAVE HAD SIGNIFICANT PRODUCTION. THE CACTUS PLAIN AND EAST CACTUS PLAIN HAVE COPPER AND GOLD AND



SILVER OCCURRENCES JUST OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARY ON THE NORTHEAST AND BEAR OUT OCCURRENCES IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE WSA.

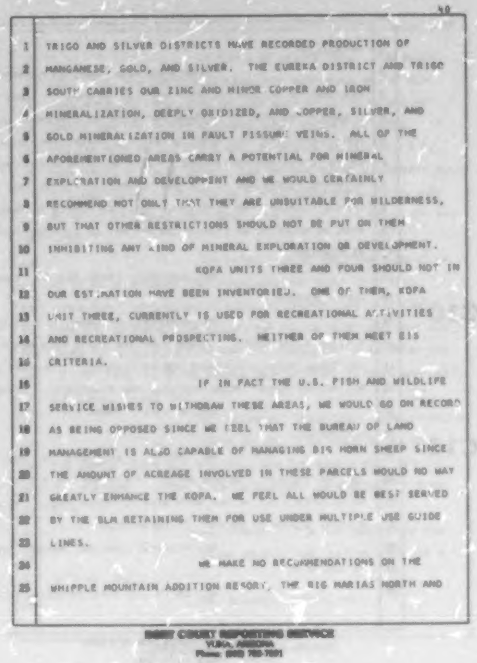
ALSO WITHIN THE BASIN THERE IS A THICK ACCUMULATION OF SEDIMENTS AND VOLCANICS WHICH MAY BE FAVORABLE FOR STRATA FORMING OR ENDING DEPOSITS. THE ARIZONA BUREAU OF GEOLOGY AND MINERAL TECHNOLOGY ON THE BASIS OF GEOLOGIC MANAGEMENT NEARBY FEEL THAT THE ROCK CHARACTERISTICS MAY BE SUCH THAT THERE IS A GOOD POSSIBLITY THAT BEDROCK COULD BE CLOSE TO THE SURFACE.

IN OTHER AREAS THIS HAS BEEN AN INDICATION OF MINERAL DEPOSITS. THE MUGGINS MOUNTAINS, WHICH ARE RECOMMENDED AS UNSUITABLE AND WITH WHICH WE AGREE CONSIST OF THE MUGGINS MINING DISTRICT. THE AREA CONTAINS GOLD, SILVER, COPPER, URANIUM AND COMMERCIAL BETONITE DEPOSITS. IT IS ALSO VERY POPULAR FOR OFFROAD VEHICLE USE.

THE SWANSEA WSA IS RECOMMENDED UNSUITABLE WITH WHICH WE AGREE. IT CONSISTS OF THE SANTA MARIA MINING DISTRICT WHICH HAS RECORDED PRODUCTION OF SILVER, MANGANESE, GOLD, COPPER, AND HEMATITE.

THE SANTA MARIA PLACER LINE IS IN THE SOUTH CENTRAL PART OF THE WSA. THE TRIGO MOUNTAINS AND TRIGO MOUNTAINS SOUTH CONSIST OF THE TRIGO, SILVER, AND EUREKA MINING DISTRICTS WHICH HAVE BEEN ACTIVE SINCE 1865.

THE TRIGO MOUNTAINS CONSISTING OF THE

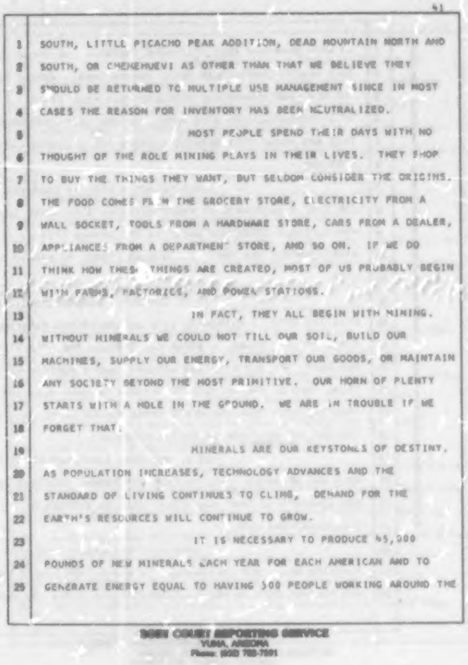


TRIGO AND SILVER DISTRICTS HAVE RECORDED PRODUCTION OF MANGANESE, GOLD, AND SILVER. THE EUREKA DISTRICT AND TRIGO SOUTH CARRIES OUR ZINC AND MINOR COPPER AND IRON MINERALIZATION, DEEPLY OXIDIZED, AND COPPER, SILVER, AND GOLD MINERALIZATION IN FAULT FISSURE VEINS. ALL OF THE AFOREMENTIONED AREAS CARRY A POTENTIAL FOR MINERAL EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND WE WOULD CERTAINLY RECOMMEND NOT ONLY THAT THEY ARE UNSUITABLE FOR WILDERNESS, BUT THAT OTHER RESTRICTIONS SHOULD NOT BE PUT ON THEM INHIBITING ANY KIND OF MINERAL EXPLORATION OR DEVELOPMENT.

KOFA UNITS THREE AND FOUR SHOULD NOT IN OUR ESTIMATION HAVE BEEN INVENTORIED. ONE OF THEM, KOFA UNIT THREE, CURRENTLY IS USED FOR RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND RECREATIONAL PROSPECTING. NEITHER OF THEM MEET EIS CRITERIA.

IF IN FACT THE U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE WISHES TO WITHDRAW THESE AREAS, WE WOULD GO ON RECORD AS BEING OPPOSED SINCE WE FEEL THAT THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT IS ALSO CAPABLE OF MANAGING BIG HORN SHEEP SINCE THE AMOUNT OF ACREAGE INVOLVED IN THESE PARCELS WOULD NO WAY GREATLY ENHANCE THE KOFA. WE FEEL ALL WOULD BE BEST SERVED BY THE BLM RETAINING THEM FOR USE UNDER MULTIPLE USE GUIDE LINES.

WE MAKE NO RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE WHIPPLE MOUNTAIN ADDITION RESORT, THE BIG MARIAS NORTH AND



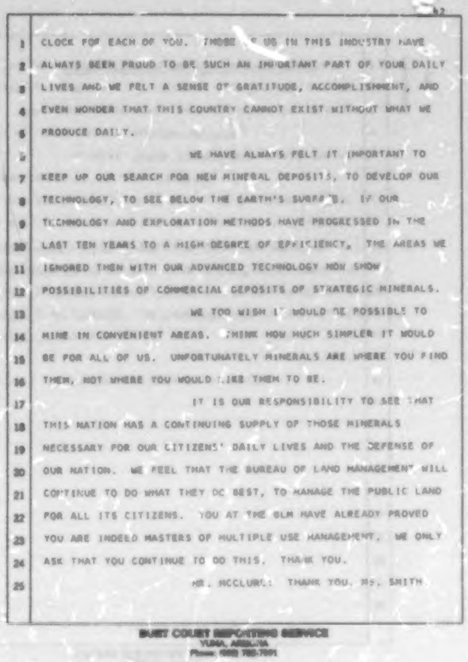
SOUTH, LITTLE PICACHO PEAK ADDITION, DEAD MOUNTAIN NORTH AND SOUTH, OR CHEMEHUEVI AS OTHER THAN THAT WE BELIEVE THEY SHOULD BE RETURNED TO MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT SINCE IN MOST CASES THE REASON FOR INVENTORY HAS BEEN NEUTRALIZED.

MOST PEOPLE SPEND THEIR DAYS WITH NO THOUGHT OF THE ROLE MINING PLAYS IN THEIR LIVES. THEY SHOP TO BUY THE THINGS THEY WANT, BUT SELDOM CONSIDER THE ORIGINS. THE FOOD COMES FROM THE GROCERY STORE, ELECTRICITY FROM A WALL SOCKET, TOOLS FROM A HARDWARE STORE, CARS FROM A DEALER, APPLIANCES FROM A DEPARTMENT STORE, AND SO ON. IF WE DO THINK HOW THESE THINGS ARE CREATED, MOST OF US PROBABLY BEGIN WITH FARMS, FACTORIES, AND POWER STATIONS.

IN FACT, THEY ALL BEGIN WITH MINING. WITHOUT MINERALS WE COULD NOT TILL OUR SOIL, BUILD OUR MACHINES, SUPPLY OUR ENERGY, TRANSPORT OUR GOODS, OR MAINTAIN ANY SOCIETY BEYOND THE MOST PRIMITIVE. OUR HORN OF PLENTY STARTS WITH A HOLE IN THE GROUND. WE ARE IN TROUBLE IF WE FORGET THAT.

MINERALS ARE OUR KEYSTONES OF DESTINY. AS POPULATION INCREASES, TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES AND THE STANDARD OF LIVING CONTINUES TO CLIMB, DEMAND FOR THE EARTH'S RESOURCES WILL CONTINUE TO GROW.

IT IS NECESSARY TO PRODUCE 45,000 POUNDS OF NEW MINERALS EACH YEAR FOR EACH AMERICAN AND TO GENERATE ENERGY EQUAL TO HAVING 500 PEOPLE WORKING AROUND THE



CLOCK FOR EACH OF YOU. THOSE OF US IN THIS INDUSTRY HAVE ALWAYS BEEN PROUD TO BE SUCH AN IMPORTANT PART OF YOUR DAILY LIVES AND WE FELT A SENSE OF GRATITUDE, ACCOMPLISHMENT, AND EVEN WONDER THAT THIS COUNTRY CANNOT EXIST WITHOUT WHAT WE PRODUCE DAILY.

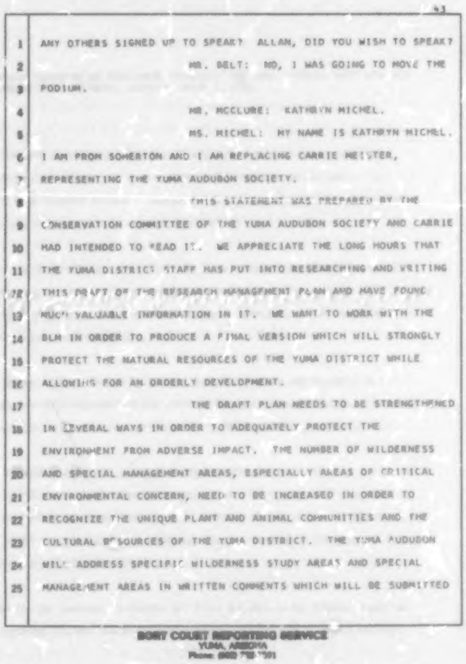
WE HAVE ALWAYS FELT IT IMPORTANT TO KEEP UP OUR SEARCH FOR NEW MINERAL DEPOSITS, TO DEVELOP OUR TECHNOLOGY, TO SEE BELOW THE EARTH'S SURFACE. IF OUR TECHNOLOGY AND EXPLORATION METHODS HAVE PROGRESSED IN THE LAST TEN YEARS TO A HIGH DEGREE OF EFFICIENCY, THE AREAS WE IGNORED THEN WITH OUR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY NOW SHOW POSSIBILITIES OF COMMERCIAL DEPOSITS OF STRATEGIC MINERALS.

WE TOO WISH IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO MINE IN CONVENIENT AREAS. THINK HOW MUCH SIMPLER IT WOULD BE FOR ALL OF US. UNFORTUNATELY MINERALS ARE WHERE YOU FIND THEM, NOT WHERE YOU WOULD LIKE THEM TO BE.

IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE THAT THIS NATION HAS A CONTINUING SUPPLY OF THOSE MINERALS NECESSARY FOR OUR CITIZENS' DAILY LIVES AND THE DEFENSE OF OUR NATION. WE FEEL THAT THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT WILL CONTINUE TO DO WHAT THEY DO BEST, TO MANAGE THE PUBLIC LAND FOR ALL ITS CITIZENS. YOU AT THE BLM HAVE ALREADY PROVED YOU ARE INDEED MASTERS OF MULTIPLE USE MANAGEMENT. WE ONLY ASK THAT YOU CONTINUE TO DO THIS. THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU, MS. SMITH.

C14



ANY OTHERS SIGNED UP TO SPEAK? ALLAN, DID YOU WISH TO SPEAK?

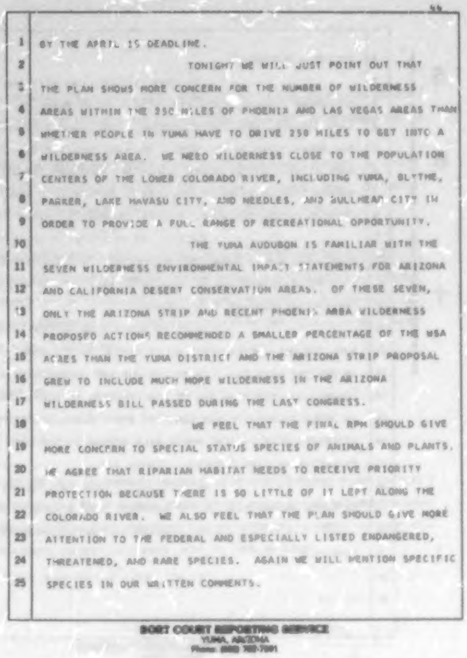
MR. BELT: NO, I WAS GOING TO MOVE THE PODIUM.

MR. MCCLURE: KATHRYN MICHEL.

MS. MICHEL: MY NAME IS KATHRYN MICHEL. I AM FROM SOMERTON AND I AM REPLACING CARRIE MEISTER, REPRESENTING THE YUMA AUDUBON SOCIETY.

THIS STATEMENT WAS PREPARED BY THE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE OF THE YUMA AUDUBON SOCIETY AND CARRIE HAD INTENDED TO READ IT. WE APPRECIATE THE LONG HOURS THAT THE YUMA DISTRICT STAFF HAS PUT INTO RESEARCHING AND WRITING THIS DRAFT OF THE RESEARCH MANAGEMENT PLAN AND HAVE FOUND MUCH VALUABLE INFORMATION IN IT. WE WANT TO WORK WITH THE BLM IN ORDER TO PRODUCE A FINAL VERSION WHICH WILL STRONGLY PROTECT THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF THE YUMA DISTRICT WHILE ALLOWING FOR AN ORDERLY DEVELOPMENT.

THE DRAFT PLAN NEEDS TO BE STRENGTHENED IN SEVERAL WAYS IN ORDER TO ADEQUATELY PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT FROM ADVERSE IMPACT. THE NUMBER OF WILDERNESS AND SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS, ESPECIALLY AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN, NEED TO BE INCREASED IN ORDER TO RECOGNIZE THE UNIQUE PLANT AND ANIMAL COMMUNITIES AND THE CULTURAL RESOURCES OF THE YUMA DISTRICT. THE YUMA AUDUBON WILL ADDRESS SPECIFIC WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS AND SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS IN WRITTEN COMMENTS WHICH WILL BE SUBMITTED



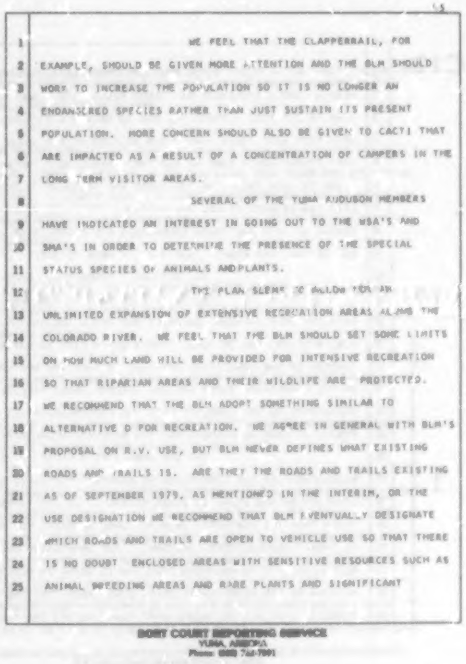
BY THE APRIL 15 DEADLINE.

TONIGHT WE WILL JUST POINT OUT THAT THE PLAN SHOWS MORE CONCERN FOR THE NUMBER OF WILDERNESS AREAS WITHIN THE 250 MILES OF PHOENIX AND LAS VEGAS AREAS THAN WHETHER PEOPLE IN YUMA HAVE TO DRIVE 250 MILES TO GET INTO A WILDERNESS AREA. WE NEED WILDERNESS CLOSE TO THE POPULATION CENTERS OF THE LOWER COLORADO RIVER, INCLUDING YUMA, BLYTHE, PARKER, LAKE HAVASU CITY, AND NEEDLES, AND BULLHEAD CITY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE A FULL RANGE OF RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY.

THE YUMA AUDUBON IS FAMILIAR WITH THE SEVEN WILDERNESS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS FOR ARIZONA AND CALIFORNIA DESERT CONSERVATION AREAS. OF THESE SEVEN, ONLY THE ARIZONA STRIP AND RECENT PHOENIX AREA WILDERNESS PROPOSED ACTIONS RECOMMENDED A SMALLER PERCENTAGE OF THE WSA ACRES THAN THE YUMA DISTRICT AND THE ARIZONA STRIP PROPOSAL GREW TO INCLUDE MUCH MORE WILDERNESS IN THE ARIZONA WILDERNESS BILL PASSED DURING THE LAST CONGRESS.

1

WE FEEL THAT THE FINAL RPM SHOULD GIVE MORE CONCERN TO SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES OF ANIMALS AND PLANTS. WE AGREE THAT RIPARIAN HABITAT NEEDS TO RECEIVE PRIORITY PROTECTION BECAUSE THERE IS SO LITTLE OF IT LEFT ALONG THE COLORADO RIVER. WE ALSO FEEL THAT THE PLAN SHOULD GIVE MORE ATTENTION TO THE FEDERAL AND ESPECIALLY LISTED ENDANGERED, THREATENED, AND RARE SPECIES. AGAIN WE WILL MENTION SPECIFIC SPECIES IN OUR WRITTEN COMMENTS.



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WE FEEL THAT THE CLAPPERRAIL, FOR EXAMPLE, SHOULD BE GIVEN MORE ATTENTION AND THE BLM SHOULD WORK TO INCREASE THE POPULATION SO IT IS NO LONGER AN ENDANGERED SPECIES RATHER THAN JUST SUSTAIN ITS PRESENT POPULATION.

3

MORE CONCERN SHOULD ALSO BE GIVEN TO CACTI THAT ARE IMPACTED AS A RESULT OF A CONCENTRATION OF CAMPERS IN THE LONG TERM VISITOR AREAS.

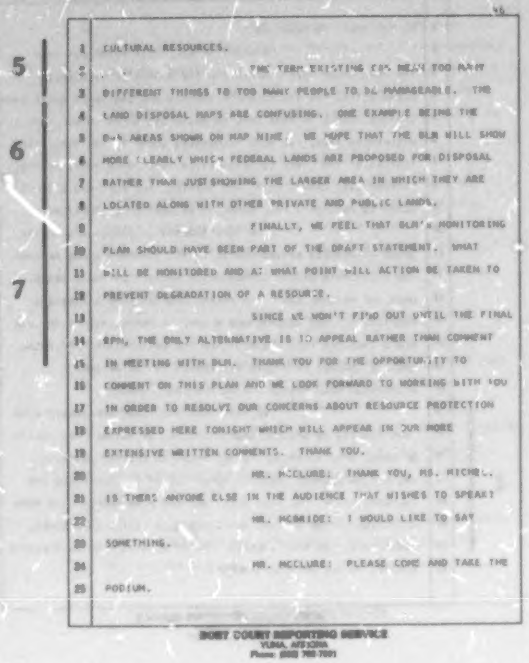
SEVERAL OF THE YUMA AUDUBON MEMBERS HAVE INDICATED AN INTEREST IN GOING OUT TO THE WSA'S AND SMA'S IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE PRESENCE OF THE SPECIAL STATUS SPECIES OF ANIMALS ANDPLANTS.

4

THE PLAN SEEMS TO ALLOW FOR AN UNLIMITED EXPANSION OF EXTENSIVE RECREATION AREAS ALONG THE COLORADO RIVER. WE FEEL THAT THE BLM SHOULD SET SOME LIMITS ON HOW MUCH LAND WILL BE PROVIDED FOR INTENSIVE RECREATION SO THAT RIPARIAN AREAS AND THEIR WILDLIFE ARE PROTECTED. WE RECOMMEND THAT THE BLM ADOPT SOMETHING SIMILAR TO ALTERNATIVE D FOR RECREATION.

5

WE AGREE IN GENERAL WITH BLM'S PROPOSAL ON R.V. USE, BUT BLM NEVER DEFINES WHAT EXISTING ROADS AND TRAILS IS. ARE THEY THE ROADS AND TRAILS EXISTING AS OF SEPTEMBER 1979, AS MENTIONED IN THE INTERIM, OR THE USE DESIGNATION WE RECOMMEND THAT BLM EVENTUALLY DESIGNATE WHICH ROADS AND TRAILS ARE OPEN TO VEHICLE USE SO THAT THERE IS NO DOUBT ENCLOSED AREAS WITH SENSITIVE RESOURCES SUCH AS ANIMAL BREEDING AREAS AND RARE PLANTS AND SIGNIFICANT



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CULTURAL RESOURCES.

5 THE TERM EXISTING CAN MEAN TOO MANY DIFFERENT THINGS TO TOO MANY PEOPLE TO BE MANAGEABLE.

6 THE LAND DISPOSAL MAPS ARE CONFUSING. ONE EXAMPLE BEING THE D-4 AREAS SHOWN ON MAP NINE. WE HOPE THAT THE BLM WILL SHOW MORE CLEARLY WHICH FEDERAL LANDS ARE PROPOSED FOR DISPOSAL RATHER THAN JUST SHOWING THE LARGER AREA IN WHICH THEY ARE LOCATED ALONG WITH OTHER PRIVATE AND PUBLIC LANDS.

7 FINALLY, WE FEEL THAT BLM'S MONITORING PLAN SHOULD HAVE BEEN PART OF THE DRAFT STATEMENT. WHAT WILL BE MONITORED AND AT WHAT POINT WILL ACTION BE TAKEN TO PREVENT DEGRADATION OF A RESOURCE.

SINCE WE WON'T FIND OUT UNTIL THE FINAL RPM, THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS TO APPEAL RATHER THAN COMMENT IN MEETING WITH BLM. THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON THIS PLAN AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU IN ORDER TO RESOLVE OUR CONCERNS ABOUT RESOURCE PROTECTION EXPRESSED HERE TONIGHT WHICH WILL APPEAR IN OUR MORE EXTENSIVE WRITTEN COMMENTS. THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU, MS. MICHEL. IS THERE ANYONE ELSE IN THE AUDIENCE THAT WISHES TO SPEAK?

MR. MCBRIDE: I WOULD LIKE TO SAY SOMETHING.

MR. MCCLURE: PLEASE COME AND TAKE THE PODIUM.

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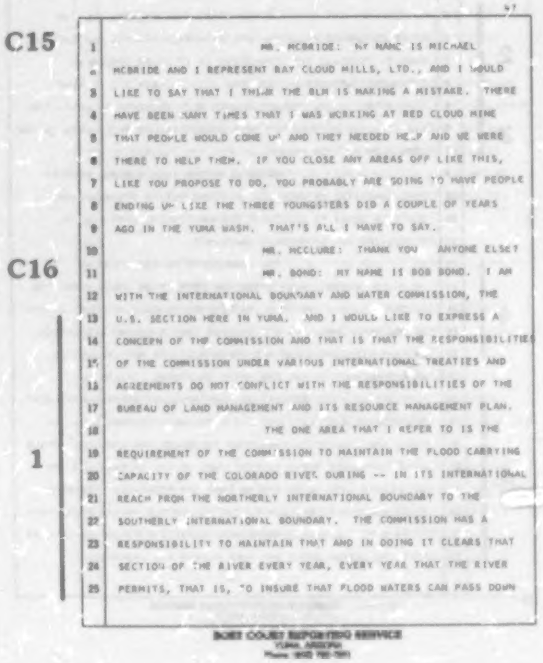

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C15 MR. MCBRIDE: MY NAME IS MICHAEL MCBRIDE AND I REPRESENT RAY CLOUD MILLS, LTD., AND I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THAT I THINK THE BLM IS MAKING A MISTAKE. THERE HAVE BEEN MANY TIMES THAT I WAS WORKING AT RED CLOUD MINE THAT PEOPLE WOULD COME UP AND THEY NEEDED HELP AND WE WERE THERE TO HELP THEM. IF YOU CLOSE ANY AREAS OFF LIKE THIS, LIKE YOU PROPOSE TO DO, YOU PROBABLY ARE GOING TO HAVE PEOPLE ENDING UP LIKE THE THREE YOUNGSTERS DID A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO IN THE YUMA WASH. THAT'S ALL I HAVE TO SAY.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU ANYONE ELSE?

C16 MR. BOND: MY NAME IS BOB BOND. I AM WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION, THE U.S. SECTION HERE IN YUMA. AND I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS A CONCERN OF THE COMMISSION AND THAT IS THAT THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSION UNDER VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND AGREEMENTS DO NOT CONFLICT WITH THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT AND ITS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

1 THE ONE AREA THAT I REFER TO IS THE REQUIREMENT OF THE COMMISSION TO MAINTAIN THE FLOOD CARRYING CAPACITY OF THE COLORADO RIVER DURING -- IN ITS INTERNATIONAL REACH FROM THE NORTHERLY INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY TO THE SOUTHERLY INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY. THE COMMISSION HAS A RESPONSIBILITY TO MAINTAIN THAT AND IN DOING IT CLEARS THAT SECTION OF THE RIVER EVERY YEAR, EVERY YEAR THAT THE RIVER PERMITS, THAT IS, TO INSURE THAT FLOOD WATERS CAN PASS DOWN

BORT COURT REPORTING SERVICE
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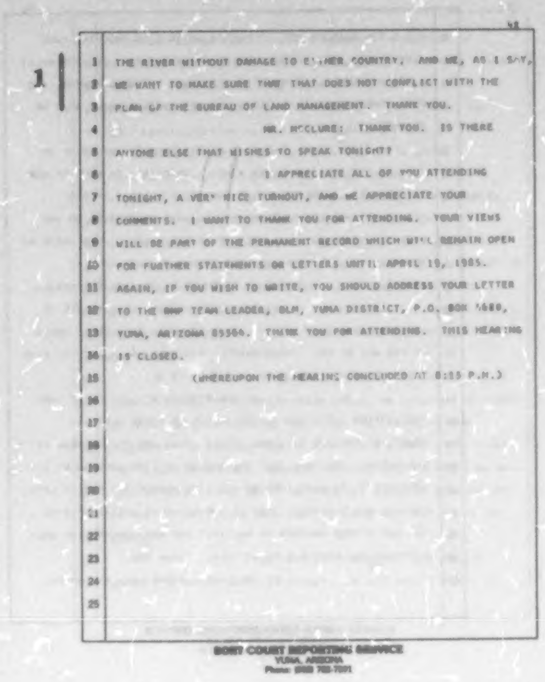

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1 THE RIVER WITHOUT DAMAGE TO EITHER COUNTRY. AND WE, AS I SAY, WE WANT TO MAKE SURE THAT THAT DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH THE PLAN OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT. THANK YOU.

MR. MCCLURE: THANK YOU. IS THERE ANYONE ELSE THAT WISHES TO SPEAK TONIGHT?

I APPRECIATE ALL OF YOU ATTENDING TONIGHT, A VERY NICE TURNOUT, AND WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING. YOUR VIEWS WILL BE PART OF THE PERMANENT RECORD WHICH WILL REMAIN OPEN FOR FURTHER STATEMENTS OR LETTERS UNTIL APRIL 19, 1985. AGAIN, IF YOU WISH TO WRITE, YOU SHOULD ADDRESS YOUR LETTER TO THE RMP TEAM LEADER, BLM, YUMA DISTRICT, P.O. BOX 5680, YUMA, ARIZONA 85364. THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING. THIS HEARING IS CLOSED.

(WHEREUPON THE HEARING CONCLUDED AT 8:15 P.M.)

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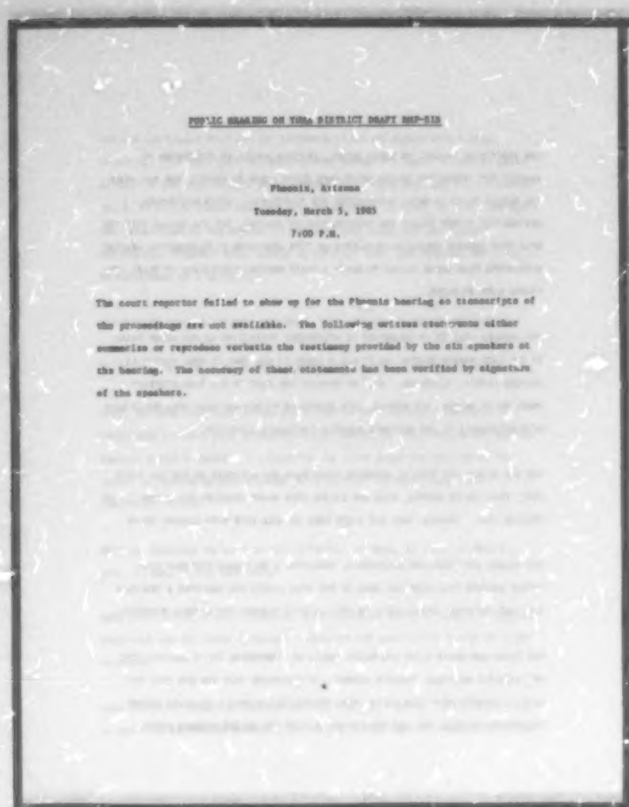


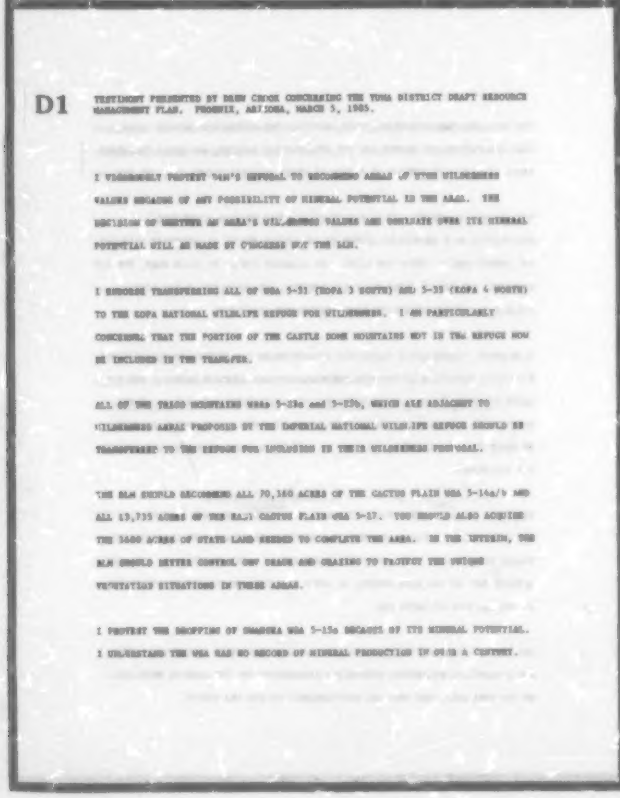
PUBLIC HEARING ON YUMA DISTRICT DRAFT RMP-EIS

Phoenix, Arizona

Tuesday, March 5, 1985

7:00 P.M.

The court reporter failed to show up for the Phoenix hearing so transcripts of the proceedings are not available. The following written statements either summarize or reproduce verbatim the testimony provided by the six speakers at the hearing. The accuracy of these statements has been verified by signature of the speakers.



D1

TESTIMONY PRESENTED BY DREW CROOK CONCERNING THE YUMA DISTRICT DRAFT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN. PHOENIX, ARIZONA, MARCH 5, 1985.

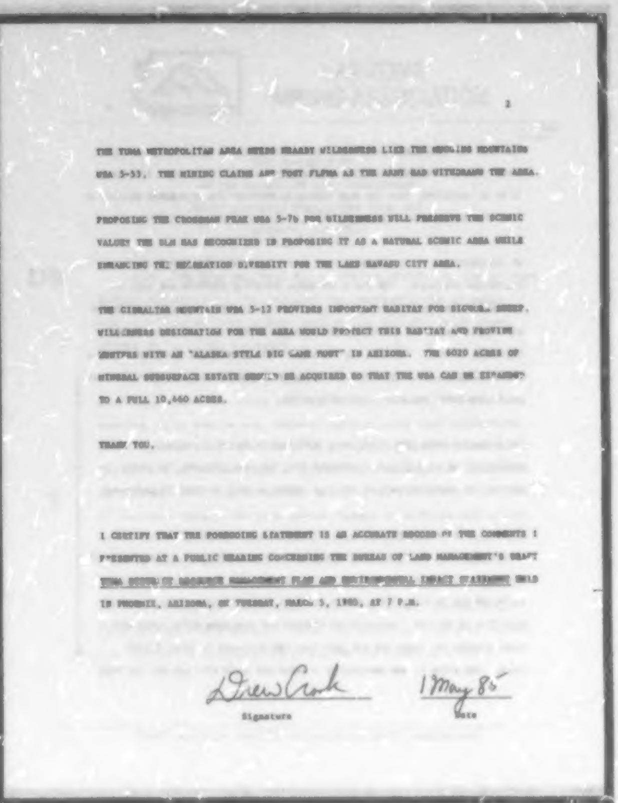
I VIGOROUSLY PROTEST BLM'S REFUSAL TO RECOMMEND AREAS OF EVEN WILDERNESS VALUES BECAUSE OF ANY POSSIBILITY OF MINERAL POTENTIAL IN THE AREA. THE DECISION OF WHETHER AN AREA'S WILDERNESS VALUES ARE DOMINATE OVER ITS MINERAL POTENTIAL WILL BE MADE BY CONGRESS NOT THE BLM.

I ENDORSE TRANSFERRING ALL OF WSA 5-31 (KOFA 3 SOUTH) AND 5-33 (KOFA 4 NORTH) TO THE KOFA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE FOR WILDERNESS. I AM PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT THE PORTION OF THE CASTLE DOME MOUNTAINS NOT IN THE REFUGE NOW BE INCLUDED IN THE TRANSFER.

ALL OF THE TRIGO MOUNTAINS WSAs 5-23a and 5-23b, WHICH ARE ADJACENT TO WILDERNESS AREAS PROPOSED BY THE IMPERIAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO THE REFUGE FOR INCLUSION IN THEIR WILDERNESS PROPOSAL.

THE BLM SHOULD RECOMMEND ALL 70,380 ACRES OF THE CACTUS PLAIN WSA 5-14a/b AND ALL 13,735 ACRES OF THE EAST CACTUS PLAIN WSA 5-17. YOU SHOULD ALSO ACQUIRE THE 1600 ACRES OF STATE LAND NEEDED TO COMPLETE THE AREA. IN THE INTERIM, THE BLM SHOULD BETTER CONTROL ORV USAGE AND GRAZING TO PROTECT THE UNIQUE VEGETATION SITUATIONS IN THESE AREAS.

I PROTEST THE DROPPING OF SWANSEA WSA 5-15a BECAUSE OF ITS MINERAL POTENTIAL. I UNDERSTAND THE WSA HAS NO RECORD OF MINERAL PRODUCTION IN OVER A CENTURY.



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THE YUMA METROPOLITAN AREA NEEDS NEARBY WILDERNESS LIKE THE MUGGINS MOUNTAINS WSA 5-53. THE MINING CLAIMS ARE POST FLPMA AS THE ARMY HAS WITHDRAWN THE AREA.

PROPOSING THE CROSSMAN PEAK WSA 5-7b FOR WILDERNESS WILL PRESERVE THE SCENIC VALUES THE BLM HAS RECOGNIZED IN PROPOSING IT AS A NATURAL SCENIC AREA WHILE ENHANCING THE RECREATION DIVERSITY FOR THE LAKE HAVASU CITY AREA.

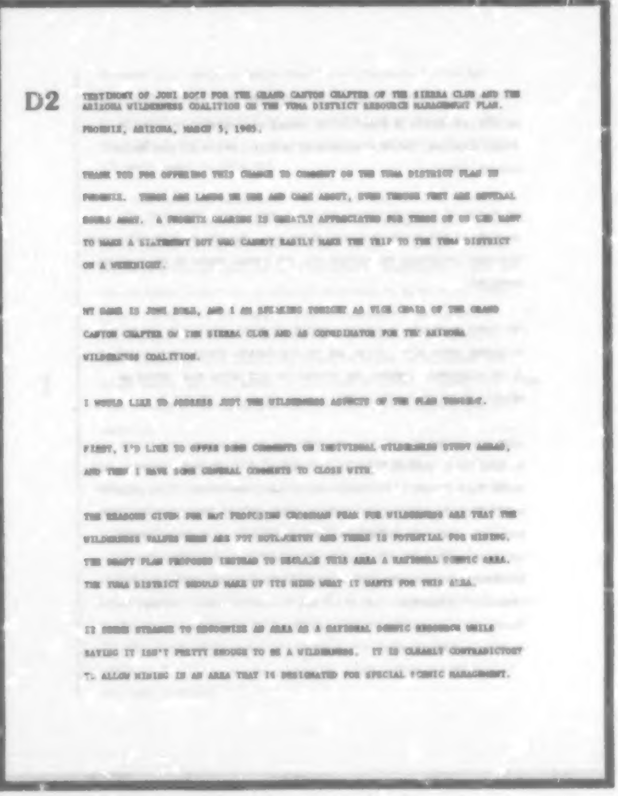
THE GIBRALTAR MOUNTAIN WSA 5-12 PROVIDES IMPORTANT HABITAT FOR BIGHORN SHEEP. WILDERNESS DESIGNATION FOR THE AREA WOULD PROTECT THIS HABITAT AND PROVIDE HUNTERS WITH AN "ALASKA STYLE BIG GAME HUNT" IN ARIZONA. THE 6020 ACRES OF MINERAL SUBSURFACE ESTATE SHOULD BE ACQUIRED SO THAT THE WSA CAN BE EXPANDED TO A FULL 10,440 ACRES.

THANK YOU.

I CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING STATEMENT IS AN ACCURATE RECORD OF THE COMMENTS I PRESENTED AT A PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT'S DRAFT YUMA DISTRICT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT HELD IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA, ON TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1985, AT 7 P.M.

Drew Crook — 1 May 85

Signature — Date



D2

TESTIMONY OF JONI BOSH FOR THE GRAND CANYON CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB AND THE ARIZONA WILDERNESS COALITION ON THE YUMA DISTRICT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN.

PHOENIX, ARIZONA, MARCH 5, 1985.

THANK YOU FOR OFFERING THIS CHANCE TO COMMENT ON THE YUMA DISTRICT PLAN IN PHOENIX. THESE ARE LANDS WE USE AND CARE ABOUT, EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE SEVERAL HOURS AWAY. A PHOENIX HEARING IS GREATLY APPRECIATED FOR THOSE OF US WHO WANT TO MAKE A STATEMENT BUT WHO CANNOT EASILY MAKE THE TRIP TO THE YUMA DISTRICT ON A WEEKNIGHT.

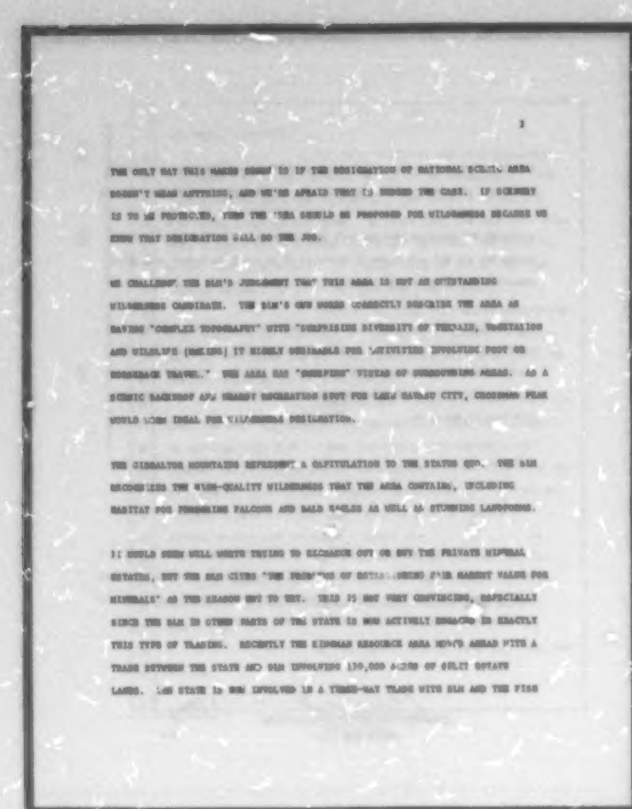
MY NAME IS JONI BOSH, AND I AM SPEAKING TONIGHT AS VICE CHAIR OF THE GRAND CANYON CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB AND AS COORDINATOR FOR THE ARIZONA WILDERNESS COALITION.

I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS JUST THE WILDERNESS ASPECTS OF THE PLAN TONIGHT.

FIRST, I'D LIKE TO OFFER SOME COMMENTS ON INDIVIDUAL WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS, AND THEN I HAVE SOME GENERAL COMMENTS TO CLOSE WITH.

THE REASONS GIVEN FOR NOT PROPOSING CROSSMAN PEAK FOR WILDERNESS ARE THAT THE WILDERNESS VALUES THERE ARE NOT OUTSTANDING AND THERE IS POTENTIAL FOR MINING. THE DRAFT PLAN PROPOSED INSTEAD TO DECLARE THIS AREA A NATIONAL SCENIC AREA. THE YUMA DISTRICT SHOULD MAKE UP ITS MIND WHAT IT WANTS FOR THIS AREA.

IT SEEMS STRANGE TO RECOGNIZE AN AREA AS A NATIONAL SCENIC RESOURCE WHILE SAYING IT ISN'T PRETTY ENOUGH TO BE A WILDERNESS. IT IS CLEARLY CONTRADICTORY TO ALLOW MINING IN AN AREA THAT IS DESIGNATED FOR SPECIAL SCENIC MANAGEMENT.

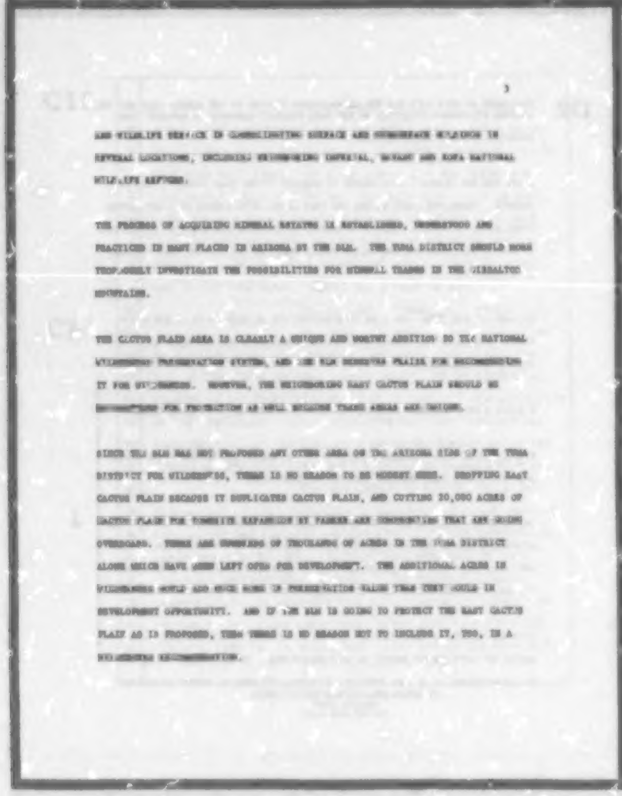


THE ONLY WAY THIS MAKES SENSE IS IF THE DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL SCENIC AREA DOESN'T MEAN ANYTHING, AND WE'RE AFRAID THAT IS INDEED THE CASE. IF SCENERY IS TO BE PROTECTED, THEN THE AREA SHOULD BE PROPOSED FOR WILDERNESS BECAUSE WE KNOW THAT DESIGNATION WILL DO THE JOB.

WE CHALLENGE THE BLM'S JUDGMENT THAT THIS AREA IS NOT AN OUTSTANDING WILDERNESS CANDIDATE. THE BLM'S OWN WORDS CORRECTLY DESCRIBE THE AREA AS HAVING "COMPLEX TOPOGRAPHY" WITH "SURPRISING DIVERSITY OF TERRAIN, VEGETATION AND WILDLIFE [MAKING] IT HIGHLY DESIRABLE FOR ACTIVITIES INVOLVING FOOT OR HORSEBACK TRAVEL." THE AREA HAS "SWEEPING" VISTAS OF SURROUNDING AREAS. AS A SCENIC BACKDROP AND NEARBY RECREATION SPOT FOR LAKE HAVASU CITY, CROSSMAN PEAK WOULD SEEM IDEAL FOR WILDERNESS DESIGNATION.

THE GIBRALTOR MOUNTAINS REPRESENT A CAPITULATION TO THE STATUS QUO. THE BLM RECOGNIZES THE HIGH-QUALITY WILDERNESS THAT THE AREA CONTAINS, INCLUDING HABITAT FOR PEREGRINE FALCONS AND BALD EAGLES AS WELL AS STUNNING LANDFORMS.

IT WOULD SEEM WELL WORTH TRYING TO EXCHANGE OUT OR BUY THE PRIVATE MINERAL ESTATES, BUT THE BLM CITES "THE PROBLEMS OF ESTABLISHING FAIR MARKET VALUE FOR MINERALS" AS THE REASON NOT TO TRY. THIS IS NOT VERY CONVINCING, ESPECIALLY SINCE THE BLM IN OTHER PARTS OF THE STATE IS NOW ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN EXACTLY THIS TYPE OF TRADING. RECENTLY THE KINGMAN RESOURCE AREA MOVED AHEAD WITH A TRADE BETWEEN THE STATE AND BLM INVOLVING 130,000 ACRES OF SPLIT ESTATE LANDS. THE STATE IS NOW INVOLVED IN A THREE-WAY TRADE WITH BLM AND THE FISH

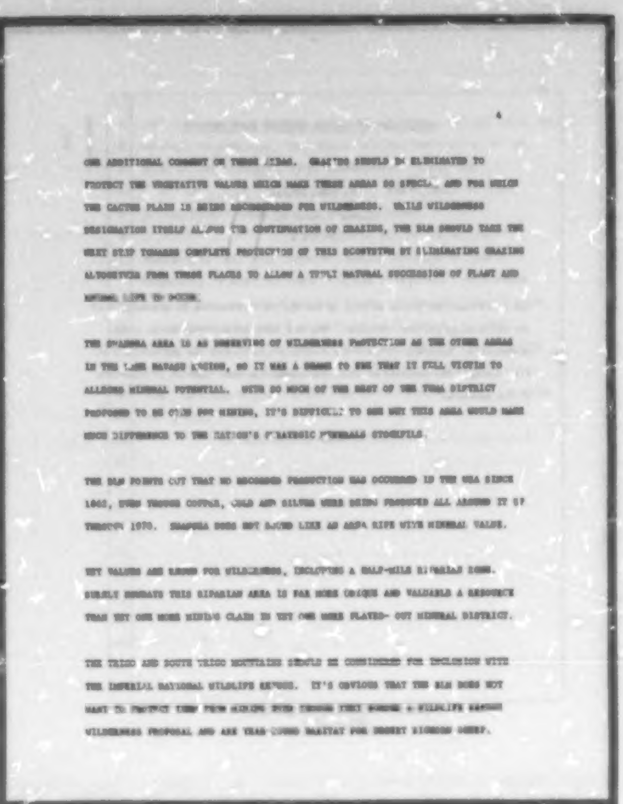


AND WILDLIFE SERVICE IN CONSOLIDATING SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE HOLDINGS IN SEVERAL LOCATIONS, INCLUDING NEIGHBORING IMPERIAL, HAVASU AND KOFA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES.

THE PROCESS OF ACQUIRING MINERAL ESTATES IS ESTABLISHED, UNDERSTOOD AND PRACTICED IN MANY PLACES IN ARIZONA BY THE BLM. THE YUMA DISTRICT SHOULD MORE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITIES FOR MINERAL TRADES IN THE GIBRALTOR MOUNTAINS.

THE CACTUS PLAIN AREA IS CLEARLY A UNIQUE AND WORTHY ADDITION TO THE NATIONAL WILDERNESS PRESERVATION SYSTEM, AND THE BLM DESERVES PRAISE FOR RECOMMENDING IT FOR WILDERNESS. HOWEVER, THE NEIGHBORING EAST CACTUS PLAIN SHOULD BE RECOMMENDED FOR PROTECTION AS WELL BECAUSE THESE AREAS ARE UNIQUE.

SINCE THE BLM HAS NOT PROPOSED ANY OTHER AREA ON THE ARIZONA SIDE OF THE YUMA DISTRICT FOR WILDERNESS, THERE IS NO REASON TO BE MODEST HERE. DROPPING EAST CACTUS PLAIN BECAUSE IT DUPLICATES CACTUS PLAIN, AND CUTTING 20,000 ACRES OF CACTUS PLAIN FOR TOWNSITE EXPANSION BY PARKER ARE CONCESSIONS THAT ARE GOING OVERBOARD. THERE ARE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ACRES IN THE YUMA DISTRICT ALONE WHICH HAVE BEEN LEFT OPEN FOR DEVELOPMENT. THE ADDITIONAL ACRES IN WILDERNESS WOULD ADD MUCH MORE IN PRESERVATION VALUE THAN THEY WOULD IN DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITY. AND IF THE BLM IS GOING TO PROTECT THE EAST CACTUS PLAIN AS IS PROPOSED, THEN THERE IS NO REASON NOT TO INCLUDE IT, TOO, IN A WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATION.



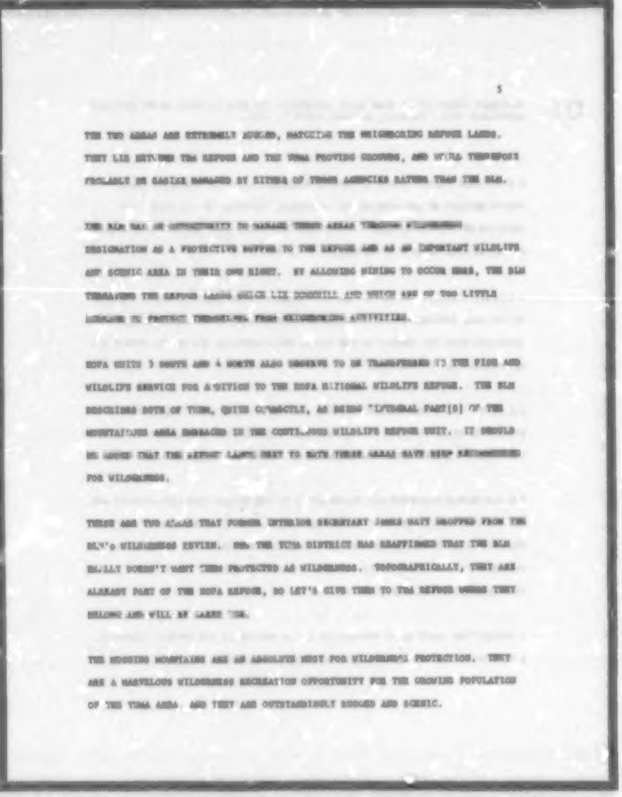
ONE ADDITIONAL COMMENT ON THESE AREAS. GRAZING SHOULD BE ELIMINATED TO PROTECT THE VEGETATIVE VALUES WHICH MAKE THESE AREAS SO SPECIAL AND FOR WHICH THE CACTUS PLAIN IS BEING RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS. WHILE WILDERNESS DESIGNATION ITSELF ALLOWS THE CONTINUATION OF GRAZING, THE BLM SHOULD TAKE THE NEXT STEP TOWARDS COMPLETE PROTECTION OF THIS ECOSYSTEM BY ELIMINATING GRAZING ALTOGETHER FROM THESE PLACES TO ALLOW A TRULY NATURAL SUCCESSION OF PLANT AND ANIMAL LIFE TO OCCUR.

THE SWANSEA AREA IS AS DESERVING OF WILDERNESS PROTECTION AS THE OTHER AREAS IN THE LAKE HAVASU REGION, SO IT WAS A SHAME TO SEE THAT IT FELL VICTIM TO ALLEGED MINERAL POTENTIAL. WITH SO MUCH OF THE REST OF THE YUMA DISTRICT PROPOSED TO BE OPEN FOR MINING, IT'S DIFFICULT TO SEE WHY THIS AREA WOULD MAKE MUCH DIFFERENCE TO THE NATION'S STRATEGIC MINERALS STOCKPILE.

THE BLM POINTS OUT THAT NO RECORDED PRODUCTION HAS OCCURRED IN THE WSA SINCE 1962, EVEN THOUGH COPPER, GOLD AND SILVER WERE BEING PRODUCED ALL AROUND IT UP THROUGH 1970. SWANSEA DOES NOT SOUND LIKE AN AREA RIPE WITH MINERAL VALUE.

YET VALUES ARE FOUND FOR WILDERNESS, INCLUDING A HALF-MILE RIPARIAN ZONE. SURELY [illegible] THIS RIPARIAN AREA IS FAR MORE UNIQUE AND VALUABLE A RESOURCE THAN YET ONE MORE MINING CLAIM IN YET ONE MORE PLAYED- OUT MINERAL DISTRICT.

THE TRIGO AND SOUTH TRIGO MOUNTAINS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FOR INCLUSION WITH THE IMPERIAL NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. IT'S OBVIOUS THAT THE BLM DOES NOT WANT TO PROTECT THEM FROM MINING EVEN THOUGH THEY BORDER A WILDLIFE REFUGE WILDERNESS PROPOSAL AND ARE YEAR-ROUND HABITAT FOR DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP.



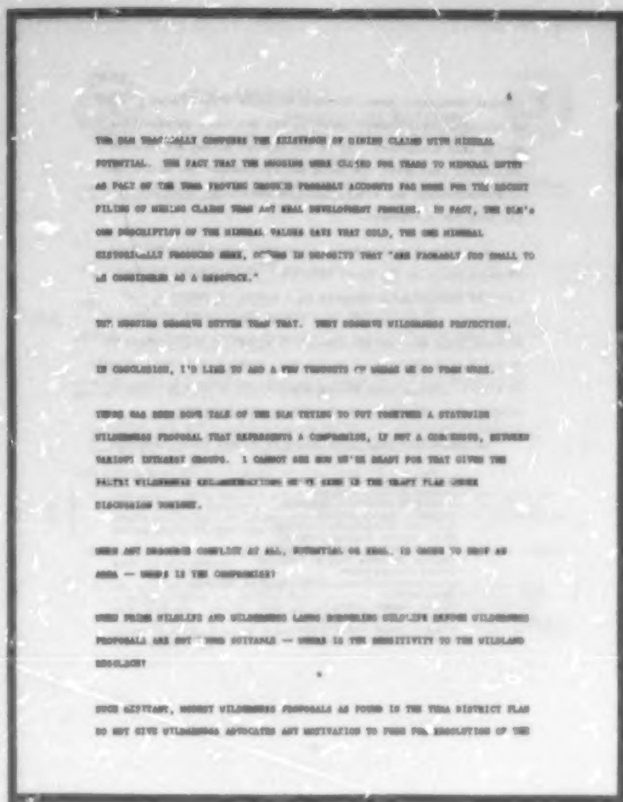
THE TWO AREAS ARE EXTREMELY RUGGED, MATCHING THE NEIGHBORING REFUGE LANDS. THEY LIE BETWEEN THE REFUGE AND THE YUMA PROVING GROUNDS, AND WOULD THEREFORE PROBABLY BE EASIER MANAGED BY EITHER OF THOSE AGENCIES RATHER THAN THE BLM.

THE BLM HAS AN OPPORTUNITY TO MANAGE THESE AREAS THROUGH WILDERNESS DESIGNATION AS A PROTECTIVE BUFFER TO THE REFUGE AND AS AN IMPORTANT WILDLIFE AND SCENIC AREA IN THEIR OWN RIGHT. BY ALLOWING MINING TO OCCUR HERE, THE BLM THREATENS THE REFUGE LANDS WHICH LIE DOWNHILL AND WHICH ARE OF TOO LITTLE ACREAGE TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM NEIGHBORING ACTIVITIES.

KOFA UNITS 3 SOUTH AND 4 NORTH ALSO DESERVE TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE FOR ADDITION TO THE KOFA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE. THE BLM DESCRIBES BOTH OF THEM, QUITE CORRECTLY, AS BEING "INTEGRAL PART[S] OF THE MOUNTAINOUS AREA EMBRACED IN THE CONTIGUOUS WILDLIFE REFUGE UNIT. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE REFUGE LANDS NEXT TO BOTH THESE AREAS HAVE BEEN RECOMMENDED FOR WILDERNESS.

THESE ARE TWO AREAS THAT FORMER INTERIOR SECRETARY JAMES WATT DROPPED FROM THE BLM'S WILDERNESS REVIEW. NOW THE YUMA DISTRICT HAS REAFFIRMED THAT THE BLM REALLY DOESN'T WANT THEM PROTECTED AS WILDERNESS. TOPOGRAPHICALLY, THEY ARE ALREADY PART OF THE KOFA REFUGE, SO LET'S GIVE THEM TO THE REFUGE WHERE THEY BELONG AND WILL BE CARED FOR.

THE MUGGINS MOUNTAINS ARE AN ABSOLUTE MUST FOR WILDERNESS PROTECTION. THEY ARE A MARVELOUS WILDERNESS RECREATION OPPORTUNITY FOR THE GROWING POPULATION OF THE YUMA AREA AND THEY ARE OUTSTANDINGLY RUGGED AND SCENIC.



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THE BLM TRAGICALLY CONFUSES THE EXISTENCE OF MINING CLAIMS WITH MINERAL POTENTIAL. THE FACT THAT THE MUGGINS WERE CLOSED FOR YEARS TO MINERAL ENTRY AS PART OF THE YUMA PROVING GROUNDS PROBABLY ACCOUNTS FAR MORE FOR THE RECENT FILING OF MINING CLAIMS THAN ANY REAL DEVELOPMENT PROMISE. IN FACT, THE BLM'S OWN DESCRIPTION OF THE MINERAL VALUES SAYS THAT GOLD, THE ONE MINERAL HISTORICALLY PRODUCED HERE, OCCURS IN DEPOSITS THAT "ARE PROBABLY TOO SMALL TO BE CONSIDERED AS A RESOURCE."

THE MUGGINS DESERVE BETTER THAN THAT. THEY DESERVE WILDERNESS PROTECTION.

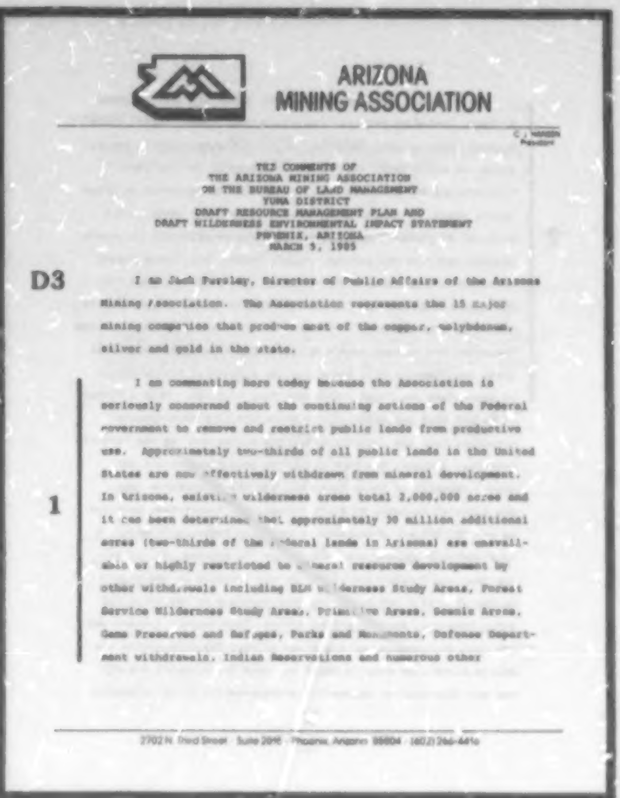
IN CONCLUSION, I'D LIKE TO ADD A FEW THOUGHTS OF WHERE WE GO FROM HERE.

THERE HAS BEEN SOME TALK OF THE BLM TRYING TO PUT TOGETHER A STATEWIDE WILDERNESS PROPOSAL THAT REPRESENTS A COMPROMISE, IF NOT A CONSENSUS, BETWEEN VARIOUS INTEREST GROUPS. I CANNOT SEE HOW WE'RE READY FOR THAT GIVEN THE PALTRY WILDERNESS RECOMMENDATIONS WE'VE SEEN IN THE DRAFT PLAN UNDER DISCUSSION TONIGHT.

WHEN ANY RESOURCE CONFLICT AT ALL, POTENTIAL OR REAL, IS CAUSE TO DROP AN AREA — WHERE IS THE COMPROMISE?

WHEN PRIME WILDLIFE AND WILDERNESS LANDS BORDERING WILDLIFE REFUGE WILDERNESS PROPOSALS ARE NOT DEEMED SUITABLE — WHERE IS THE SENSITIVITY TO THE WILDLAND ECOLOGY?

SUCH [illegible], MODEST WILDERNESS PROPOSALS AS FOUND IN THE YUMA DISTRICT PLAN DO NOT GIVE WILDERNESS ADVOCATES ANY MOTIVATION TO PUSH FOR RESOLUTION OF THE



ARIZONA
MINING ASSOCIATION

C. J. [illegible]
President

THE COMMENTS OF
THE ARIZONA MINING ASSOCIATION
ON THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
YUMA DISTRICT
DRAFT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND
DRAFT WILDERNESS ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
PHOENIX, ARIZONA
MARCH 5, 1985

D3 I am Jack Pursley, Director of Public Affairs of the Arizona Mining Association. The Association represents the 15 major mining companies that produce most of the copper, molybdenum, silver and gold in the state.

1 I am commenting here today because the Association is seriously concerned about the continuing actions of the Federal Government to remove and restrict public lands from productive use. Approximately two-thirds of all public lands in the United States are now effectively withdrawn from mineral development. In Arizona, existing wilderness areas total 2,000,000 acres and it has been determined that approximately 30 million additional acres (two-thirds of the Federal lands in Arizona) are unavailable or highly restricted to mineral resource development by other withdrawals including BLM Wilderness Study Areas, Forest Service Wilderness Study Areas, Primitive Areas, Scenic Areas, Game Preserves and Refuges, Parks and Monuments, Defense Department withdrawals, Indian Reservations and numerous other

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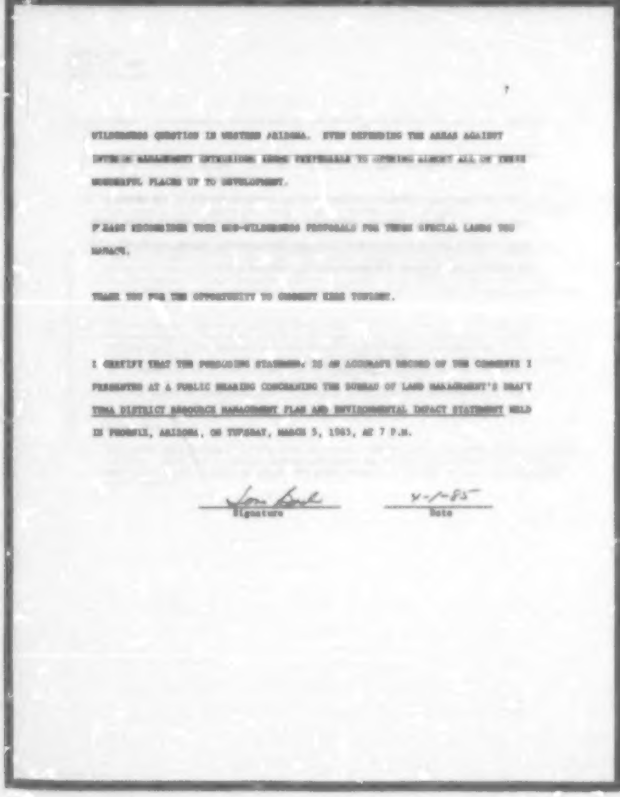

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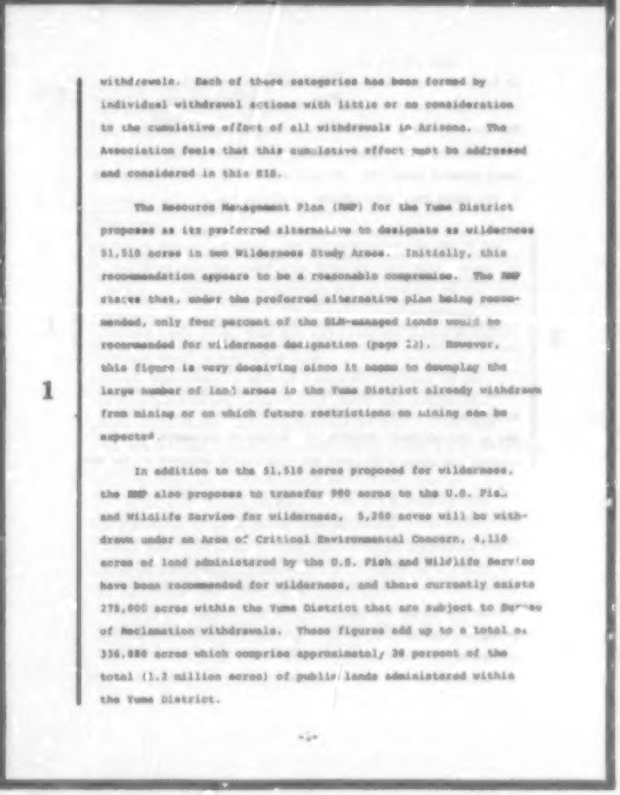
WILDERNESS QUESTION IN WESTERN ARIZONA. EVEN DEFENDING THE AREAS AGAINST INTERIM MANAGEMENT INTRUSIONS SEEMS PREFERABLE TO OPENING ALMOST ALL OF THESE WONDERFUL PLACES UP TO DEVELOPMENT.

PLEASE RECONSIDER YOUR NON-WILDERNESS PROPOSALS FOR THESE SPECIAL LANDS YOU MANAGE.

THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT HERE TONIGHT.

I CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING STATEMENT IS AN ACCURATE RECORD OF THE COMMENTS I PRESENTED AT A PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT'S DRAFT YUMA DISTRICT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT HELD IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA, ON TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1985, AT 7 P.M.

Signature — 4-1-85 Date



1 withdrawals. Each of these categories has been formed by individual withdrawal actions with little or no consideration to the cumulative effect of all withdrawals in Arizona. The Association feels that this cumulative effect must be addressed and considered in this EIS.

The Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Yuma District proposes as its preferred alternative to designate as wilderness 51,510 acres in two Wilderness Study Areas. Initially, this recommendation appears to be a reasonable compromise. The RMP states that, under the preferred alternative plan being recommended, only four percent of the BLM-managed lands would be recommended for wilderness designation (page 22). However, this figure is very deceiving since it seems to downplay the large number of land areas in the Yuma District already withdrawn from mining or on which future restrictions on mining can be expected.

In addition to the 51,510 acres proposed for wilderness, the RMP also proposes to transfer 900 acres to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for wilderness, 5,360 acres will be withdrawn under an Area of Critical Environmental Concern, 4,110 acres of land administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have been recommended for wilderness, and there currently exists 275,000 acres within the Yuma District that are subject to Bureau of Reclamation withdrawals. These figures add up to a total of 336,880 acres which comprise approximately 28 percent of the total (1.2 million acres) of public lands administered within the Yuma District.

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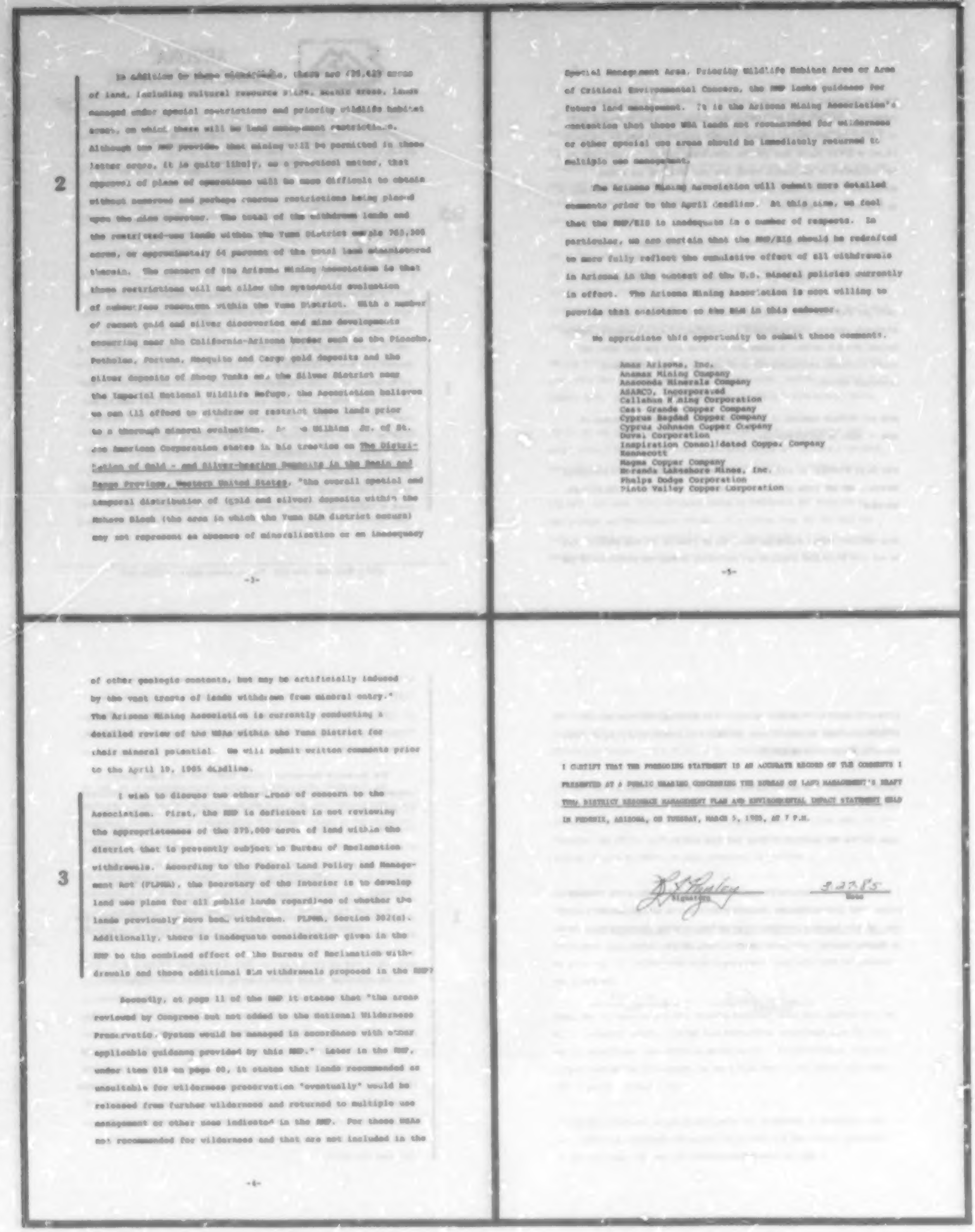


2 In addition to these [illegible], there are 436,423 acres of land, including cultural resource sites, scenic areas, lands managed under special restrictions and priority wildlife habitat areas, on which there will be land management restrictions. Although the RMP provides that mining will be permitted in these latter areas, it is quite likely, as a practical matter, that approval of plans of operations will be more difficult to obtain without numerous and perhaps onerous restrictions being placed upon the mine operator. The total of the withdrawn lands and the restricted-use lands within the Yuma District equals 763,306 acres, or approximately 64 percent of the total land administered therein. The concern of the Arizona Mining Association is that these restrictions will not allow the systematic evaluation of subsurface resources within the Yuma District. With a number of recent gold and silver discoveries and mine developments occurring near the California-Arizona border such as the Picacho, Potholes, Fortuna, Mesquite and Cargo gold deposits and the silver deposits of Sheep Tanks and the Silver District near the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge, the Association believes we can ill afford to withdraw or restrict these lands prior to a thorough mineral evaluation. [illegible] Wilkins Jr. of St. Joe American Corporation states in his treatise on The Distribution of Gold - and Silver-bearing Deposits in the Basin and Range Province, Western United States, "the overall spatial and temporal distribution of (gold and silver) deposits within the Mohave Block (the area in which the Yuma BLM district occurs) may not represent an absence of mineralization or an inadequacy

-3-

of other geologic contents, but may be artificially induced by the vast tracts of lands withdrawn from mineral entry." The Arizona Mining Association is currently conducting a detailed review of the WSAs within the Yuma District for their mineral potential. We will submit written comments prior to the April 10, 1985 deadline.

3 I wish to discuss two other areas of concern to the Association. First, the RMP is deficient in not reviewing the appropriateness of the 375,000 acres of land within the district that is presently subject to Bureau of Reclamation withdrawals. According to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), the Secretary of the Interior is to develop land use plans for all public lands regardless of whether the lands previously have been withdrawn. FLPMA, Section 202(a). Additionally, there is inadequate consideration given in the RMP to the combined effect of the Bureau of Reclamation withdrawals and those additional BLM withdrawals proposed in the RMP?

Secondly, at page 11 of the RMP it states that "the areas reviewed by Congress but not added to the National Wilderness Preservation System would be managed in accordance with other applicable guidance provided by this RMP." Later in the RMP, under item 018 on page 60, it states that lands recommended as unsuitable for wilderness preservation "eventually" would be released from further wilderness and returned to multiple use management or other uses indicated in the RMP. For those WSAs not recommended for wilderness and that are not included in the

-4-

Special Management Area, Priority Wildlife Habitat Area or Area of Critical Environmental Concern, the RMP lacks guidance for future land management. It is the Arizona Mining Association's contention that these WSA lands not recommended for wilderness or other special use areas should be immediately returned to multiple use management.

The Arizona Mining Association will submit more detailed comments prior to the April deadline. At this time, we feel that the RMP/EIS is inadequate in a number of respects. In particular, we are certain that the RMP/EIS should be redrafted to more fully reflect the cumulative effect of all withdrawals in Arizona in the context of the U.S. mineral policies currently in effect. The Arizona Mining Association is most willing to provide that assistance to the BLM in this endeavor.

We appreciate this opportunity to submit these comments.

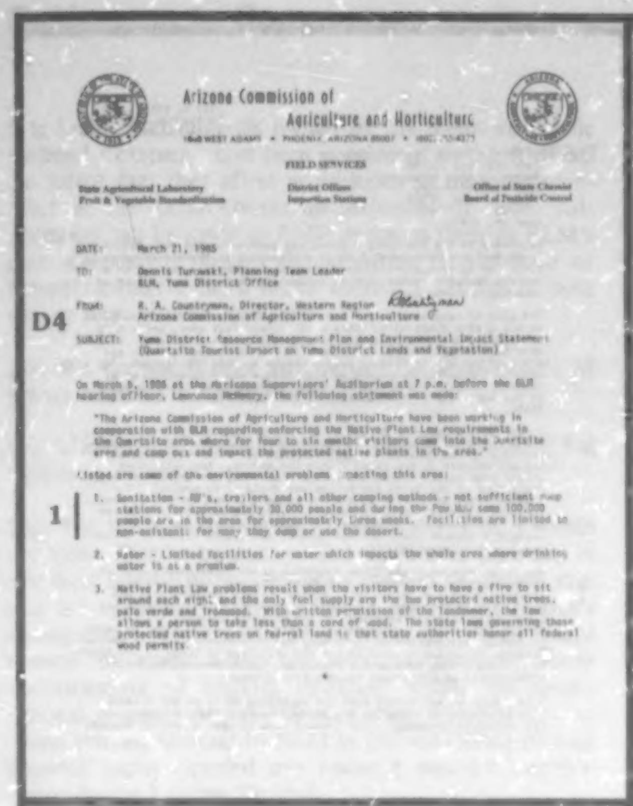
Amax Arizona, Inc.
Anamax Mining Company
Anaconda Minerals Company
ASARCO, Incorporated
Callahan Mining Corporation
Casa Grande Copper Company
Cyprus Bagdad Copper Company
Cyprus Johnson Copper Company
Duval Corporation
Inspiration Consolidated Copper Company
Kennecott
Magma Copper Company
Miranda Lakeshore Mines, Inc.
Phelps Dodge Corporation
Pinto Valley Copper Corporation

-5-

I CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING STATEMENT IS AN ACCURATE RECORD OF THE COMMENTS I PRESENTED AT A PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT'S DRAFT YUMA DISTRICT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT HELD IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA, ON TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1985, AT 7 P.M.

Signature

3-27-85
Date



Arizona Commission of
Agriculture and Horticulture
1688 WEST ADAMS • PHOENIX, ARIZONA 85007 • (602) [illegible]

FIELD SERVICES

State Agricultural Laboratory
Fruit & Vegetable Standardization

District Offices
Inspection Stations

Office of State Chemist
Board of Pesticide Control

DATE: March 21, 1985

TO: Dennis Turowski, Planning Team Leader
BLM, Yuma District Office

FROM: R. A. Countryman, Director, Western Region RACountryman
Arizona Commission of Agriculture and Horticulture

D4

SUBJECT: Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (Quartzite Tourist Impact on Yuma District Lands and Vegetation)

On March 5, 1985 at the Maricopa Supervisors' Auditorium at 7 p.m. before the BLM hearing officer, Lawrence McHenry, the following statement was made:

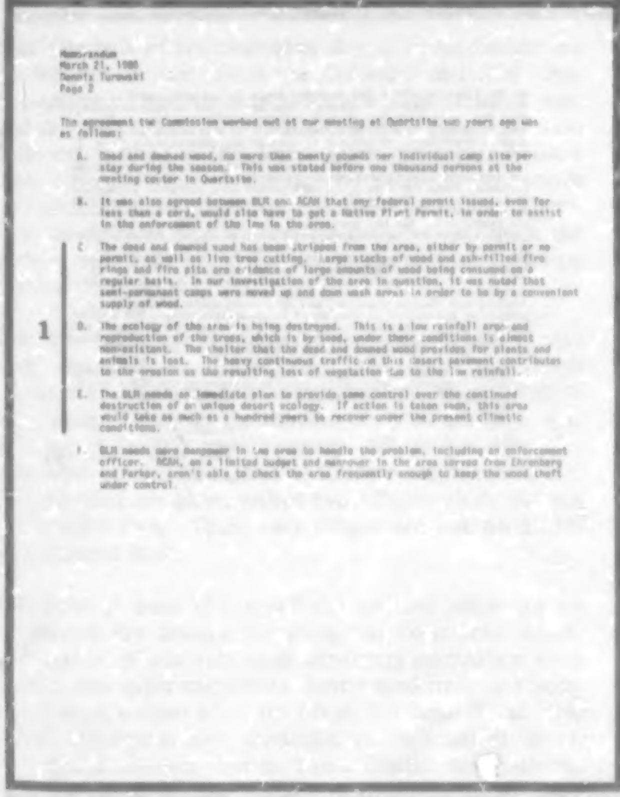
> "The Arizona Commission of Agriculture and Horticulture have been working in cooperation with BLM regarding enforcing the Native Plant Law requirements in the Quartzite area where for four to six months visitors come into the Quartzite area and camp out and impact the protected native plants in the area."

Listed are some of the environmental problems impacting this area:

1 1. Sanitation - RV's, trailers and all other camping methods - not sufficient dump stations for approximately 30,000 people and during the Pow Wow some 100,000 people are in the area for approximately three weeks. Facilities are limited to non-existent; for many they dump or use the desert.

2. Water - Limited facilities for water which impacts the whole area where drinking water is at a premium.

3. Native Plant Law problems result when the visitors have to have a fire to sit around each night and the only fuel supply are the two protected native trees, palo verde and ironwood. With written permission of the landowner, the law allows a person to take less than a cord of wood. The state laws governing those protected native trees on federal land is that state authorities honor all federal wood permits.



Memorandum
March 21, 1985
Dennis Turowski
Page 2

The agreement the Commission worked out at our meeting at Quartzite two years ago was as follows:

A. Dead and downed wood, no more than twenty pounds per individual camp site per stay during the season. This was stated before one thousand persons at the meeting center in Quartzite.

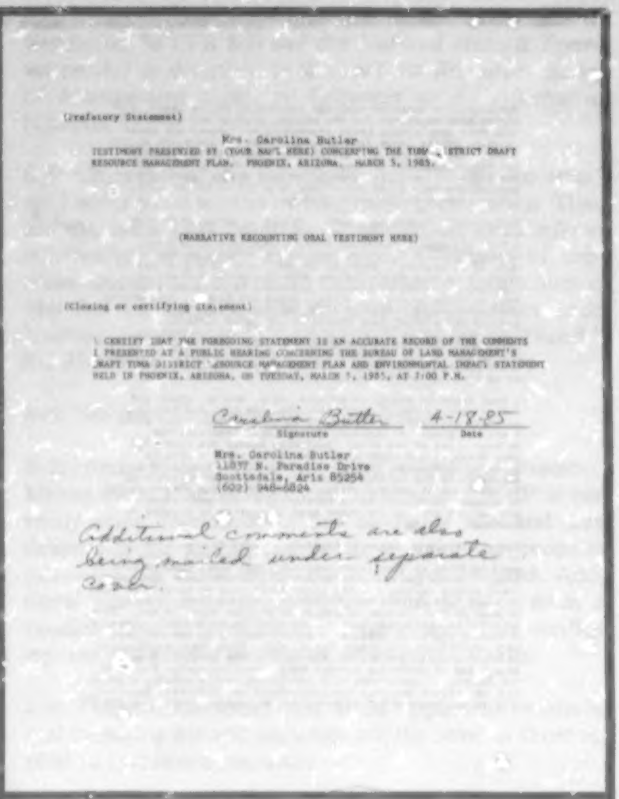
B. It was also agreed between BLM and ACAH that any federal permit issued, even for less than a cord, would also have to get a Native Plant Permit, in order to assist in the enforcement of the law in the area.

C. The dead and downed wood has been stripped from the area, either by permit or no permit, as well as live tree cutting. Large stacks of wood and ash-filled fire rings and fire pits are evidence of large amounts of wood being consumed on a regular basis. In our investigation of the area in question, it was noted that semi-permanent camps were moved up and down wash areas in order to be by a convenient supply of wood.

1 D. The ecology of the area is being destroyed. This is a low rainfall area and reproduction of the trees, which is by seed, under these conditions is almost non-existent. The shelter that the dead and downed wood provides for plants and animals is lost. The heavy continuous traffic on this desert pavement contributes to the erosion as the resulting loss of vegetation due to the low rainfall.

E. The BLM needs an immediate plan to provide some control over the continued destruction of an unique desert ecology. If action is taken soon, this area would take as much as a hundred years to recover under the present climatic conditions.

F. BLM needs more manpower in the area to handle the problem, including an enforcement officer. ACAH, on a limited budget and manpower in the area served from Ehrenberg and Parker, aren't able to check the area frequently enough to keep the wood theft under control.



(Prefatory Statement)

Mrs. Carolina Butler
TESTIMONY PRESENTED BY (YOUR NAME HERE) CONCERNING THE YUMA DISTRICT DRAFT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN. PHOENIX, ARIZONA. MARCH 5, 1985.

(NARRATIVE RECOUNTING ORAL TESTIMONY HERE)

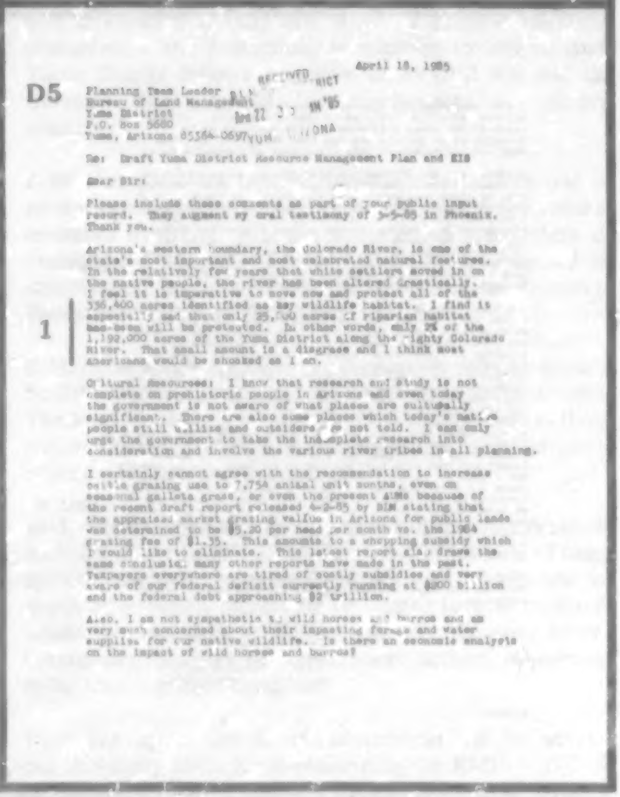
(Closing or certifying statement)

I CERTIFY THAT THE FOREGOING STATEMENT IS AN ACCURATE RECORD OF THE COMMENTS I PRESENTED AT A PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT'S DRAFT YUMA DISTRICT RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT HELD IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA, ON TUESDAY, MARCH 5, 1985, AT 7:00 P.M.

Carolina Butler 4-18-85
Signature Date

Mrs. Carolina Butler
11837 N. Paradise Drive
Scottsdale, Ariz 85254
(602) 948-6824

Additional comments are also being mailed under separate cover.



April 18, 1985

D5

Planning Team Leader
Bureau of Land Management
Yuma District
P.O. Box 5680
Yuma, Arizona 85364-0697

RECEIVED BLM YUMA DISTRICT
APR 22 [illegible] AM '85
YUMA, ARIZONA

Re: Draft Yuma District Resource Management Plan and EIS

Dear Sir:

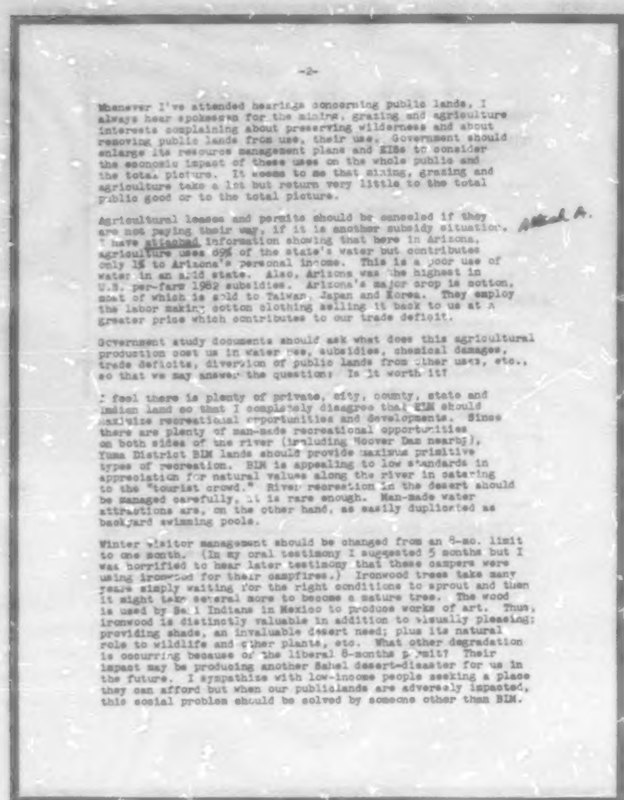
Please include these comments as part of your public input record. They augment my oral testimony of 3-5-85 in Phoenix. Thank you.

Arizona's western boundary, the Colorado River, is one of the state's most important and most celebrated natural features. In the relatively few years that white settlers moved in on the native people, the river has been altered drastically. 1 I feel it is imperative to move now and protect all of the 336,400 acres identified as key wildlife habitat. I find it especially sad that only 25,000 acres of riparian habitat ~~has been~~ will be protected. In other words, only 2% of the 1,192,000 acres of the Yuma District along the mighty Colorado River. That small amount is a disgrace and I think most americans would be shocked as I am.

Cultural Resources: I know that research and study is not complete on prehistoric people in Arizona and even today the government is not aware of what places are culturally significant. There are also some places which today's native people still utilize and outsiders are not told. I can only urge the government to take the incomplete research into consideration and involve the various river tribes in all planning.

I certainly cannot agree with the recommendation to increase cattle grazing use to 7,754 animal unit months, even on seasonal galleta grass, or even the present AUMs because of the recent draft report released 4-2-85 by BLM stating that the appraised market grazing vallue in Arizona for public lands was determined to be $5.20 per head per month vs. the 1984 grazing fee of $1.35. This amounts to a whopping subsidy which I would like to eliminate. This latest report also draws the same conclusion many other reports have made in the past. Taxpayers everywhere are tired of costly subsidies and very aware of our federal deficit currently running at $200 billion and the federal debt approaching $2 trillion.

Also, I am not sympathetic to wild horses and burros and am very much concerned about their impacting forage and water supplies for our native wildlife. Is there an economic analysis on the impact of wild horses and burros?



-2-

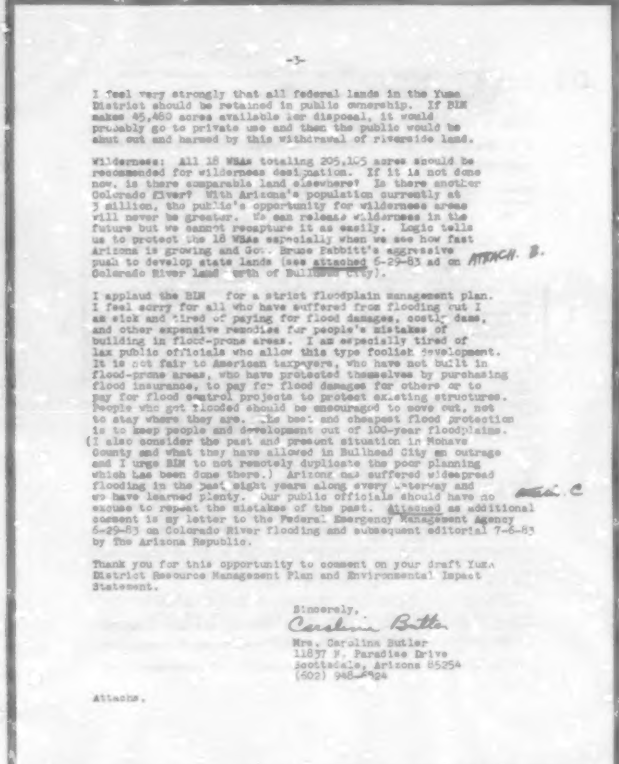
Whenever I've attended hearings concerning public lands, I always hear spokesmen for the mining, grazing and agriculture interests complaining about preserving wilderness and about removing public lands from use, their use. Government should enlarge its resource management plans and EISs to consider the economic impact of these uses on the whole public and the total picture. It seems to me that mining, grazing and agriculture take a lot but return very little to the total public good or to the total picture.

Agricultural leases and permits should be canceled if they are not paying their way, if it is another subsidy situation. I have attached information showing that here in Arizona, agriculture uses 89% of the state's water but contributes only 1% to Arizona's personal income. This is a poor use of water in an arid state. Also, Arizona was the highest in U.S. per-farm 1982 subsidies. Arizona's major crop is cotton, most of which is sold to Taiwan, Japan and Korea. They employ the labor making cotton clothing selling it back to us at a greater price which contributes to our trade deficit. Attach A.

Government study documents should ask what does this agricultural production cost us in water use, subsidies, chemical damages, trade deficits, diversion of public lands from other uses, etc., so that we may answer the question: Is it worth it?

I feel there is plenty of private, city, county, state and Indian land so that I completely disagree that BLM should maximize recreational opportunities and developments. Since there are plenty of man-made recreational opportunities on both sides of the river (including Hoover Dam nearby), Yuma District BLM lands should provide maximum primitive types of recreation. BLM is appealing to low standards in appreciation for natural values along the river in catering to the "tourist crowd." River recreation in the desert should be managed carefully, it is rare enough. Man-made water attractions are, on the other hand, as easily duplicated as backyard swimming pools.

Winter visitor management should be changed from an 8-mo. limit to one month. (In my oral testimony I suggested 5 months but I was horrified to hear later testimony that these campers were using ironwood for their campfires.) Ironwood trees take many years simply waiting for the right conditions to sprout and then it might take several more to become a mature tree. The wood is used by Seri Indians in Mexico to produce works of art. Thus, ironwood is distinctly valuable in addition to visually pleasing; providing shade, an invaluable desert need; plus its natural role to wildlife and other plants, etc. What other degradation is occurring because of the liberal 8-months permit? Their impact may be producing another Sahel desert-disaster for us in the future. I sympathize with low-income people seeking a place they can afford but when our publiclands are adversely impacted, this social problem should be solved by someone other than BLM.



-3-

I feel very strongly that all federal lands in the Yuma District should be retained in public ownership. If BLM makes 45,480 acres available for disposal, it would probably go to private use and then the public would be shut out and harmed by this withdrawal of riverside land.

Wilderness: All 18 WSAs totaling 205,105 acres should be recommended for wilderness designation. If it is not done now, is there comparable land elsewhere? Is there another Colorado River? With Arizona's population currently at 3 million, the public's opportunity for wilderness areas will never be greater. We can release wilderness in the future but we cannot recapture it as easily. Logic tells us to protect the 18 WSAs especially when we see how fast Arizona is growing and Gov. Bruce Babbitt's aggressive push to develop state lands (see attached 6-29-83 ad on Colorado River land north of Bullhead City). ATTACH. B.

I applaud the BLM for a strict floodplain management plan. I feel sorry for all who have suffered from flooding but I am sick and tired of paying for flood damages, costly dams, and other expensive remedies for people's mistakes of building in flood-prone areas. I am especially tired of lax public officials who allow this type foolish development. It is not fair to American taxpayers, who have not built in flood-prone areas, who have protected themselves by purchasing flood insurance, to pay for flood damages for others or to pay for flood control projects to protect existing structures. People who got flooded should be encouraged to move out, not to stay where they are. The best and cheapest flood protection is to keep people and development out of 100-year floodplains. (I also consider the past and present situation in Mohave County and what they have allowed in Bullhead City an outrage and I urge BLM to not remotely duplicate the poor planning which has been done there.) Arizona has suffered widespread flooding in the past eight years along every waterway and we have learned plenty. Our public officials should have no excuse to repeat the mistakes of the past. Attached as additional comment is my letter to the Federal Emergency Management Agency 6-29-83 on Colorado River flooding and subsequent editorial 7-6-83 by The Arizona Republic. Attach. C

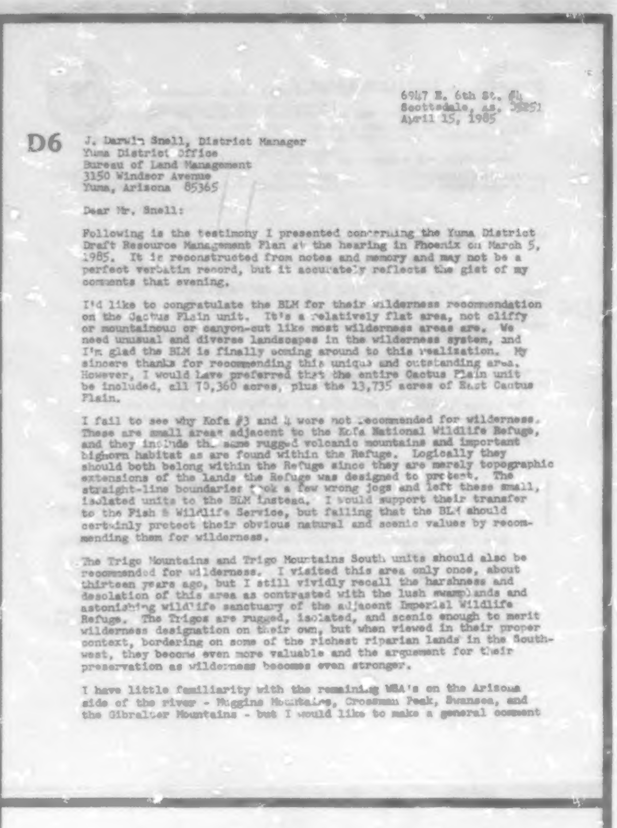
Thank you for this opportunity to comment on your draft Yuma District Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement.

Sincerely,

Carolina Butler

Mrs. Carolina Butler
11837 N. Paradise Drive
Scottsdale, Arizona 85254
(602) 948-6924

Attachs.



6947 E. 6th St. #4
Scottsdale, az. 85251
April 15, 1985

D6

J. Darwin Snell, District Manager
Yuma District Office
Bureau of Land Management
3150 Windsor Avenue
Yuma, Arizona 85365

Dear Mr. Snell:

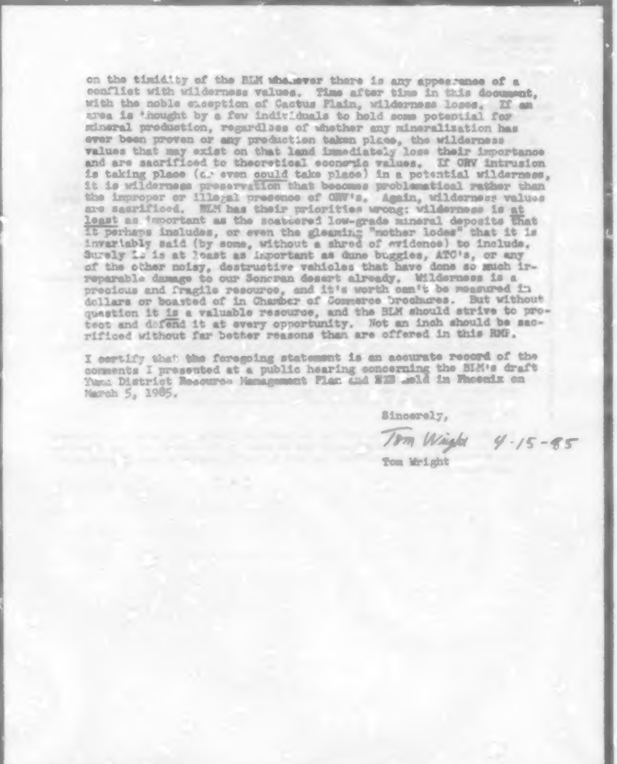
Following is the testimony I presented concerning the Yuma District Draft Resource Management Plan at the hearing in Phoenix on March 5, 1985. It is reconstructed from notes and memory and may not be a perfect verbatim record, but it accurately reflects the gist of my comments that evening.

I'd like to congratulate the BLM for their wilderness recommendation on the Cactus Plain unit. It's a relatively flat area, not cliffy or mountainous or canyon-cut like most wilderness areas are. We need unusual and diverse landscapes in the wilderness system, and I'm glad the BLM is finally coming around to this realization. My sincere thanks for recommending this unique and outstanding area. However, I would have preferred that the entire Cactus Plain unit be included, all 70,360 acres, plus the 13,735 acres of East Cactus Plain.

I fail to see why Kofa #3 and 4 were not recommended for wilderness. These are small areas adjacent to the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, and they include the same rugged volcanic mountains and important bighorn habitat as are found within the Refuge. Logically they should both belong within the Refuge since they are merely topographic extensions of the lands the Refuge was designed to protect. The straight-line boundaries took a few wrong jogs and left these small, isolated units to the BLM instead. I would support their transfer to the Fish & Wildlife Service, but failing that the BLM should certainly protect their obvious natural and scenic values by recommending them for wilderness.

The Trigo Mountains and Trigo Mountains South units should also be recommended for wilderness. I visited this area only once, about thirteen years ago, but I still vividly recall the harshness and desolation of this area as contrasted with the lush swamplands and astonishing wildlife sanctuary of the adjacent Imperial Wildlife Refuge. The Trigos are rugged, isolated, and scenic enough to merit wilderness designation on their own, but when viewed in their proper context, bordering on some of the richest riparian lands in the Southwest, they become even more valuable and the arguement for their preservation as wilderness becomes even stronger.

I have little familiarity with the remaining WSA's on the Arizona side of the river - Muggins Mountains, Crossman Peak, Swansea, and the Gibralter Mountains - but I would like to make a general comment



on the timidity of the BLM whenever there is any appearance of a conflict with wilderness values. Time after time in this document, with the noble exception of Cactus Plain, wilderness loses. If an area is thought by a few individuals to hold some potential for mineral production, regardless of whether any mineralization has ever been proven or any production taken place, the wilderness values that may exist on that land immediately lose their importance and are sacrificed to theoretical economic values. If ORV intrusion is taking place (or even could take place) in a potential wilderness, it is wilderness preservation that becomes problematical rather than the improper or illegal presence of ORV's. Again, wilderness values are sacrificed. BLM has their priorities wrong: wilderness is at least as important as the scattered low-grade mineral deposits that it perhaps includes, or even the gleaming "mother lodes" that it is invariably said (by some, without a shred of evidence) to include. Surely it is at least as important as dune buggies, ATC's, or any of the other noisy, destructive vehicles that have done so much irreparable damage to our Sonoran desert already. Wilderness is a precious and fragile resource, and it's worth can't be measured in dollars or boasted of in Chamber of Commerce brochures. But without question it is a valuable resource, and the BLM should strive to protect and defend it at every opportunity. Not an inch should be sacrificed without far better reasons than are offered in this RMP.

I certify that the foregoing statement is an accurate record of the comments I presented at a public hearing concerning the BLM's draft Yuma District Resource Management Plan and EIS held in Phoenix on March 5, 1985.

Sincerely,

Tom Wright 4-15-85

Tom Wright

Responses to Comments

1-1: Lands and minerals owned by the Santa Fe-Pacific Railroad Company have been considered in the RMP to the extent that they affect acquisitions or disposals identified in the *Land Ownership Adjustments* issue. Adjustments can be made to RMP decisions through BLM's plan amendment process should future development of privately-owned mineral estate warrant a change of land uses or management objectives.

1-2: We do not foresee any impact on development of private minerals as a result of the RMP.

5-1: The population numbers and footnotes in Table 3-8 have been revised.

8-1: The 876 sites are on BLM-administered land within the Yuma District boundary. The 1,200 sites (updated in this final RMP-EIS to 1299 sites) include additional sites that are on lands under another agency or individual's management within or near the District. BLM keeps records of these additional sites to promote better understanding of cultural resources within the larger, regional context. About 380 sites were recorded on the Yuma Proving Ground by BLM in 1982–83 during cultural resource surveys carried out under a contract commissioned by the Proving Ground.

8-2: The bulk of archaeological sites in Yuma District are on the first terrace above the Colorado and Gila River floodplains. These terraces are Early Pleistocene in age, and are the product of fluvial deposition. Post-deposition deflation resulted in the desert pavements which blanket these terraces. Most of the cultural sites date to periods well after the development of the desert pavement. Therefore, all artifacts and features do mingle together on the surface with little or no change to the surface following cultural occupation.

8-3: The inference is correct. There are no known sites with stratified sequences nor sites containing trash middens on BLM lands in Yuma District. Virtually all of the "village" sites on the terraces are pre-ceramic in age, i.e., pre A.D. 900 approximately. All villages after this date were on the floodplain of the two major rivers, and their remains are gone, except two villages which did not get washed away. These two villages are not on BLM-administered land.

8-4: Sites in areas of low cultural resource sensitivity are of extreme low density, are usually in the interior desert, and consist of relatively small temporary occupation areas (one or two night campsites), lightly used trails and occasional small scatters of sherds (single pot breaks) and lithic flakes. Whether in high, moderate, or low sensitivity areas, all cultural resource sites in Yuma District are given the consideration, evaluation and review required by Federal Regulation 36 CFR 800 and the *National Historic Preservation Act* as described in the *Cultural Resources* section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2).

8-5: Chapter 3 of the EIS states that "33 sites or areas" are known to be worthy of long range preservation. These are the same sites or areas designated in the *Preferred Alternative for* special management. A number of these areas contain as many as 25 to 50 sites. A total count of sites for the entire 33 sites or areas has not been made; however, we estimate that about 375 sites are contained in the 33 sites or areas.

8-6: See the response to comment 8-1.

8-7: Yuma District does not have a Cultural Resources Management Plan (CRMP) at present. A CRMP is currently being developed for one of the 33 sites and areas designated for special management under the proposed plan—the Big Maria area—but is not yet finalized. Additional plans will be prepared for other sites or areas as funding permits; those having a high potential for conflicting uses will receive priority in developing CRMPs.

8-8: The methodologies that BLM applies to evaluating and managing historic resources are the same as those applied to prehistoric resources.

8-9: Evaluation is only one stage of cultural resources management and protection. In addition to various laws, Yuma District follows guidelines in 36 CFR 800 and the Bureau's 8100 manual for management of cultural resources.

8-10: Socio-cultural Use in *Appendix J* describes one of several types of uses applied to or recognized for cultural resources by BLM. It is not intended as a statement of management or policy. However, BLM is obligated to comply with requirements of the *Archeological Resources Protection Act of 1979* (ARPA).

8-11: Sites which are suffering damage, usually by erosion or ORV traffic, are selected for stabilization or protection. The legal procedures are the same for stabilization as those required for any other action or use which might adversely impact a cultural resource site.

10-1: We believe that the resources information presently included in the RMP-EIS is adequate for the level of management decisions being made in this plan. Additional in-depth information on unique or limited natural resources would be included as needed in any site-specific environmental analyses of management actions subsequent to or resulting from this plan.

10-2: We agree. Details of enforcement will be worked out in activity plans for implementing the RMP.

10-3: The site-specific details for managing priority wildlife habitat areas established in the RMP will be addressed in cooperatively prepared habitat management plans (HMPs). Whereas the RMP establishes general land use allocations and broad management objectives, HMPs identify specific habitat enhancement projects, including project specifications, timeframes for completion and budgetary requirements. Public participation and environmental impact analysis have major functions in the habitat management planning process as required by NEPA.

10-4: BLM has no management responsibility over the river channels. Most of the lands adjacent to the river are Bureau of Reclamation withdrawn lands on which BLM has joint management responsibility.

10-5: The riparian acreage identified for management as priority wildlife habitat under the *Preferred Alternative* has been revised to reflect the Cocopah land transfer. The decision to transfer federal lands along the Colorado River to the Cocopah Tribe was made by Congress after the draft RMP-EIS was published.

10-6: BLM considered four factors in reviewing each of the 15 areas studied for designation as Special Management Areas in the RMP:

1) the significance of natural or cultural features in the area

2) the existence of or potential for conflicting uses

3) public visibility and opinion concerning the area

4) the degree to which routine management under the general multiple use guidelines in applicable laws and regulations would protect the resources in these areas.

On the basis of this review, BLM concluded that a number of the areas identified in the RMP lack either the resources or potential conflicts necessary to warrant special management area protection, and that management under general multiple use guidelines would provide adequate protection to these resources. The areas in the MFP that would not be designated under the *Preferred Alternative* of the RMP fall into this category.

10-7: The acquisition of riparian lands along the Colorado River was not identified through the scoping process as a planning issue. The acquisitions proposed in the RMP are intended as support for on-the-ground program management in carrying out the objectives and decisions reached for other planning issues.

10-8: See response to comment 10-2.

10-9: See response to comment 10-2.

10-10: The *Preferred Alternative* has been revised to reflect the need for more definitive ORV management guidelines as pointed out by this and other comments. In addition, a definition for "trail" has been added to the *Glossary*. "Road" is also defined in the *Glossary*.

Under the approved RMP, "existing" will refer initially to those roads and trails which are present in the district at the date the plan is adopted. As funding and manpower permit, areas of the district would be inventoried in conjunction with activity planning to ascertain "existing roads and trails" and determine whether changes in ORV designations are required. Areas with potential for significant conflict between ORV use and other resources and uses would be inventoried first. These priority areas include special management and priority wildlife habitat areas established by the RMP as well as high use recreational areas. Where adjustments to the ORV designations in the RMP are recommended as a result of activity planning, the Bureau's Resource Management Plan amendment process will be used. This process requires formal public input and a complete environmental assessment as part of decision-making.

Our intent in using the "limited to existing roads and trails" designation was to establish in the Resource Management Plan a long-term management direction toward eliminating or curtailing expansion of the district's road and trail network. Because we did not and still do not have adequate data for making decisions about which roads specifically should remain open and which should be closed, the "limited to designated roads and trails" designation is used infrequently in the RMP-EIS.

Several comments identify the potential conflict between ORV use and natural values. Commonly, the example of desert washes and the xeroriparian or desert wash plant community was used. We recognize the potential conflicts with various resources and these will be addressed in the area-specific activity plans mentioned above.

10-11: Riparian areas are already included in the areas with high wildlife values on which no wood collecting would be permitted under the *Preferred Alternative*.

11-1: "Providing for the enhancement of the visitors' recreation experience" is a goal of an MFP decision that proposed establishing a BLM Ranger Force in the Yuma District. It is not a stated goal of the RMP's recreation issue.

11-2: See response to comment 10-6.

12-1: Most of the off-road vehicle (ORV) use in Yuma District occurs on existing roads and trails. The proposed designations in the *Preferred Alternative* will have little impact on this existing use.

The 15,120 acres mentioned in the EIS have significant potential for conflicts between ORV recreation and other resource uses, including non-ORV recreation.

The designation of 640 acres as open to ORV use represents the commitment of this acreage for a single purpose. Elsewhere, the intent of the plan has been to balance the demand for ORV recreation against all other competing resource uses. The designation of most areas as open to ORV use on existing roads and trails provides for most of the current ORV use to continue unaltered in the district along with other resource uses.

52-1: The *Preferred Alternative* and *Alternative B* have been revised to include: modifications to utility corridor UC-6B and the boundary of the Cactus Plain special management area, and provisions for the transfer of 11,230 acres within the proposed new Parker townsite to the State of Arizona. Please refer to the *Special Management Areas, Land Ownership Adjustments and Rights-of-Way* issues in the *Preferred Alternative* for a full description of these changes.

54-1: The *Preferred Alternative* has been revised.

64-1: *Appendix E* includes species that are listed as "Threatened," "Endangered" or "Rare" by the federal government or the states of Arizona or California. These species are subject to protective measures described in *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2).

Other terms in the RMP such as "key," "sensitive" and "priority" wildlife are used interchangeably to describe species that are indicators of priority wildlife habitat within the Yuma District. Priority, sensitive, threatened and endangered wildlife species are defined in the *Glossary* under the term "Species."

64-2: Table S-2 has been revised to indicate that other T&E species in the Yuma District would also benefit from designation and management of priority wildlife habitat areas.

64-3: A "No*" in Table 2-1 indicates that while an area would not be formally designated, special management prescriptions would be applied in order to protect natural values (*see footnote to Table 2-1).

64-4: The "natural values" listed in Table 2-1 represent unique natural features that characterize areas proposed for special management area protection (see Chapter 3, *Unique Natural Areas and Features*, for a detailed description of these areas). While threatened and endangered species may also be present in these areas (and may benefit from special management area protection), they are not a primary reason for the SMA proposals.

64-5: The Dome Rock Mountains migration route would be included in priority wildlife habitat under all alternatives except B and C. Protective measures that may be needed for its management as a priority wildlife habitat area would be developed in a site-specific activity plan for implementation of the RMP.

64-6: The headings for *Alternative D* in Table 2-12 have been revised to read "Resource Protection." Please note that the table number has been changed to 2-11 in the final EIS.

64-7: Wilderness designations would provide incidental protection for desert tortoise habitat in the Yuma District. However, such designations are not intended to specifically protect the desert tortoise.

As indicated in *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2), BLM will respect state protection for the desert tortoise by consulting with the Arizona Game and Fish Department and California Department of Fish and Game before implementing any projects that may affect this species. This guidance will apply to all areas of desert tortoise habitat within the district.

64-8: The correct acreage for the proposed Gibraltar Mountain SMA is 25,260 acres. This acreage includes all of the 7,870-acre Gibraltar Mountain WSA. The RMP-EIS has been revised to show the correct acreage figure.

64-9: The terms irreversible and irretrievable as used in the explanation of the duration of resource commitments are required by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing NEPA (see Section 1502.16). The distinction between the two terms is defined in the EIS (see *Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources*, Chapter 4).

64-10: Areas 3 and 9 in Table 4-31 (4-27 in the final EIS) refer to areas proposed for disposal under the *Land Ownership Adjustments* issue in the *Preferred Alternative* (see Map 9). Table 2-8 in the draft summarized wilderness study area recommendations for each of the RMP alternatives and did not include or affect Areas 3 and 9.

Please note that Area 9 has been deleted from the list of areas that would be available for disposal under the *Preferred Alternative* in the final RMP-EIS. In addition, Table 2-8 (Wilderness Alternatives) has been deleted in this final EIS because of BLM's decision to defer the wilderness issue until a separate environmental document is prepared in 1986.

64-11: "No" under the column heading Irretrievable in Table 4-31 (Table 4-27 in the final EIS) means that the resource commitment could be recovered or replaced if desired.

65-1: Under the *Preferred Alternative*, BLM could authorize expansion of recreation areas on federal lands along the Colorado River in cases where there is demonstrated feasibility and need (see *Issue 6: Recreation – General*). Whether through a Recreation & Public Purpose, commercial or other lease, such authorizations would be dependent upon compatibility with other resource management objectives in this RMP.

68-1: See response to comment 52-1.

95-1: Stipulations on the length of permit for races on the Parker 400 course will be addressed in the specific activity plan that would be developed for the course following approval of the RMP.

96-1: BLM has revised the *Preferred Alternative* and *Alternative C* to include provisions for designation of a communications site at Mohawk Pass.

146-1: Long-term winter visitors do pay a $25 permit fee which authorizes camping for up to 8 months. However, they are allowed to camp only in designated long-term visitor areas (LTVAs) in the district.

Length of stay restrictions for concessions cannot be compared to those for LTVAs. Concessions offer a wide range of recreation facilities in response to year-round recreational demands. A long-term stay of 8 months on concessions would result in fewer people having access to use of these high recreational demand, riverfront lands. Long-term visitor areas, on the other hand, provide only minimal recreational facilities on open desert lands to a relatively homogeneous group of seasonal visitors. With the exception of this winter visitor use, the lands in PLTVAs are not in high recreational demand.

153-1: See response to comment 52-1.

154-1: See response to comment 52-1.

156-1: None of the proposed management actions in the Yuma District RMP-EIS would affect maintenance of Palo Verde Irrigation District canals and drains.

156-2: As a result of this comment, the base map from which Maps 2 through 5 were prepared will be revised to show "Palo Verde Dam" instead of "Palo Verde Weir." However, this change is not significant enough to warrant the expenditures that would be required to revise the maps in this final EIS.

156-3: The notation of "Palo Verde Dam" on Map 2-10 and Maps 6, 7, 8 and 9 is not considered necessary.

157-1: The *Preferred Alternative* has been revised to include Milpitas Wash (4,760 acres) among the areas that would be managed under special prescriptions to protect their natural values.

157-2: The RMP-EIS is not intended as an ORV user guide. Following completion of the RMP, information and regulatory procedures for implementing the ORV designations established in the RMP will be developed in site-specific activity plans.

157-3: The Yuma District presently does and will continue to work closely with the California Department of Fish and Game to identify, protect and develop key wildlife habitat areas on BLM-administered lands for deer as well as other wildlife species. Within funding and manpower constraints, BLM works with all relevant agencies, organizations and individuals to identify, manage and protect critical areas for deer as well as other wildlife.

173-1: As a result of this comment and numerous meetings with state and local representatives, the *Preferred Alternative* and *Alternative B* have been revised to include provisions for transferring the Pittsburg Point area to the State of Arizona and Lake Havasu City.

174-1: Because it is located within the river floodplain, this parcel is designated in the RMP for retention in federal ownership and is therefore not available for public sale.

187-1: We do not foresee any conflicts between RMP decisions and the 700-foot wide cleared floodway. In addition, BLM will honor all aspects of water treaties between Mexico and the United States in implementing RMP decisions. The *Floodplain Coordination* section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2) has been revised to include specific provisions for floodplain coordination with the International Boundary and Water Commission.

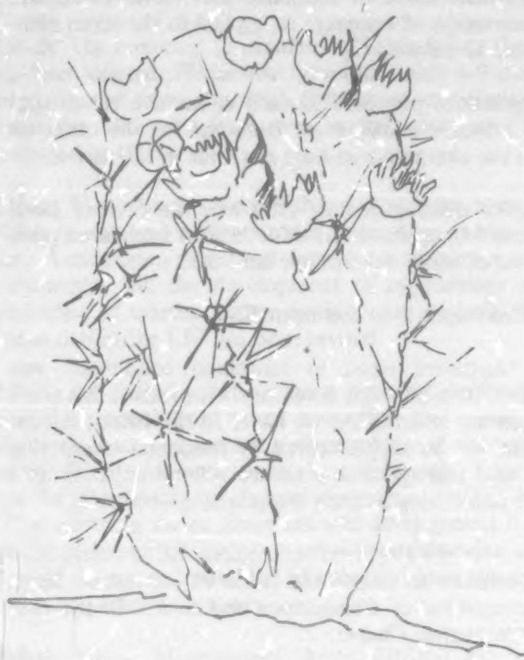
188-1: See response to comment 52-1.

192-1: Under the *Preferred Alternative*, wildlife habitat would be a priority consideration on a total of 247,740 acres. This total includes 23,100 acres in riparian areas along the Colorado, Bill Williams and Gila Rivers. It also includes 216,960 acres in bighorn sheep yearlong use areas and 7,680 acres in one bighorn sheep migration corridor. These areas would all be referred to as priority wildlife habitat and managed in accordance with the guidelines described in the *Preferred Alternative* for the *Wildlife Habitat* issue.

Please note that the acreage cited here for riparian habitat is less than the acreage that appeared in the draft due to changes that have been made to the *Preferred Alternative*.

192-2: The projected impacts on wildlife from grazing management alternatives are described in Chapter 4.

Few livestock are grazed in riparian areas in the Yuma District. Most of the allotments along the Colorado and Bill Williams Rivers are classified as ee ephemeral and are therefore used by livestock infrequently and for only short periods at a time. There are only two perennial-ephemeral allotments bordering the Colorado River in the district. BLM does not plan to fence livestock off from riparian vegetation in either of these allotments. In the Ganado allotment, the area along the river is highly developed and receives virtually no grazing use. The second allotment (Bishop) has generally received only light grazing use in past years and grazing use in river riparian areas has not been a problem.



192-3: Revegetation of native trees, including the cottonwood/willow/mesquite community along the lower Colorado River on BLM-administered lands, is a top habitat management priority of the Yuma District's wildlife program. Revegetation activities are carried out within the funding and manpower limitations placed upon BLM. The specific details of revegetation projects are addressed in habitat management plans (HMPs).

192-4: The yellow-billed cuckoo is threatened by loss of its native habitat—the cottonwood/willow/mesquite association—along the lower Colorado River. Protecting the remainder and reestablishing this habitat-type through revegetation projects has been a Yuma District wildlife program priority for a number of years. The *Preferred Alternative* would extend this program priority status further by designating all remaining riparian habitat along the Colorado River as priority wildlife habitat area. In addition, present recreation use areas along the Colorado River would be managed for maintenance of wildlife habitat as well as for recreation. The district's current habitat management plans (HMPs) focus on enhancement of cottonwood/willow/mesquite habitat as a primary objective. The Resource Management Plan will provide the basis for updating and developing new HMPs.

192-5: Cattle do not normally graze yearlong on the allotments in the district. While the grazing permits for the Nine-Mile and Ganado allotments are yearlong, pastures in these allotments are rested through rotation of grazing use. Little use is made on the Muse allotment due to water developments being in disrepair. In addition, the ephemeral allotments are grazed only when annuals are present and there is potential for a sufficient ephemeral forage crop. Wildlife and other resource values are given consideration when making the decision to authorize ephemeral grazing (see also response to comment 192-8).

192-6: The Mule Deer section in Chapter 3 has been revised to reflect the competition that can occur between livestock and deer, particularly in riparian drainage and wash areas where both tend to concentrate. However, we do not believe that the competition or impacts would be significant. Both deer and livestock occupy a large area in such a low density that there is sufficient forage and space to distribute the competition to such a degree that it is minimal. This applies to most other wildlife species as well. The level of use by both wildlife and livestock is so low that it does not have a significant impact on wildlife, livestock or the riparian vegetation.

192-7: The statement on supplemental feeding has been deleted from the *Preferred Alternative* for grazing management.

192-8: There is not a "minimum pounds of forage per acre" that must exist before grazing is authorized on ephemeral allotments. However, BLM takes wildlife requirements into consideration and has discretion on whether to authorize grazing or not. Forage is reserved for wildlife in accordance with the Lower Gila Environmental Analysis Record for Range Management prepared by BLM in 1974.

195-1: While eight sites were identified for designation as multi-user communication sites in common, the *Preferred Alternative* would permit BLM to authorize placement of communication facilities on public lands outside of the designated sites when there is a legitimate need to do so. The eight sites proposed for designation in the draft RMP-EIS were identified on the basis of input from the communications industry as described in Table 5-1. A ninth communication site at Mohawk Pass has been added to the proposed plan as a result of public comment on the draft RMP-EIS.

As indicated in the *General Lands Program* section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2), all applications for communication site authorizations would be handled on a case-by-case basis under criteria and guidelines in federal regulations (43 CFR 2800) and Bureau Manuals 2800 and 28[illegible].

195-2: As used in the RMP, the term "communication site" refers to designated multi-user sites to be utilized by all entities requiring communication facilities within the particular service zone. Designated communication sites typically have constructed access roads and a number of separate communication facilities. All other communication sites, including microwave reflector and helicopter drop station sites, are considered individual or single-user sites.

As stated in *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2), each application to locate a communications facility on a non-designated site will be reviewed through procedures established in federal regulations 43 CFR 2800 and will include an environmental impact analysis as part of the decision process. Proposed facilities will be located in designated communication sites whenever technically possible in order to avoid a proliferation of sites and facilities on mountaintops.

199-1: The only specifically stated constraints on recreation concession expansion under *Alternative B* are those required for floodplain management. However, site-specific impacts from the expansion of concession and lease areas would be assessed and mitigated in accordance with NEPA using an EA or EIS process prior to approval by BLM.

199-2: This comment actually refers to Table S-2: Summary of Impacts by Alternative. The same table appears in Chapter 2 (Table 2-12 in the draft and 2-11 in the final EIS). As the full title states, these tables are only a summary of the impacts described in Chapter 4. Refer to Chapter 4 for a complete discussion of the impacts from *Alternative B* on recreational resources and opportunities. The discussion in Chapter 4 is self-explanatory.

200-1: See response to comment 52-1.

202-1: Mineral exploration and development in special management areas and priority wildlife areas would be subject only to the surface management regulations described for the *Energy and Minerals Program* in *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2). These regulations are applicable to all public lands except those specifically withdrawn from mineral entry; they would not preclude or prohibit mining, but would provide for the development of mitigating measures to minimize potential impacts and prevent unnecessary and undue degradation. The regulations would be applied to individual mining operations on a case-by-case basis through review of notices of intent and mining plans of operation. The only additional restriction that would be placed on mining activities in these areas is the prohibition of sand and gravel permits.

202-2: See response to comment 202-1.

202-3: See response to comment 202-1.

202-4: See response to comment 202-1.

202-5: See response to comment 202-1.

204-1: The percent of land acquisitions for wilderness versus the percent for grazing is not a fair measure of whether *Alternative D* is balanced. The titles for alternatives relate to the broader scope of economic uses versus protection and preservation of resources as applied to the seven planning issues simultaneously.

The acquisitions proposed in each alternative are in support of resource management decisions for the other six issues in the alternative and are not ends in themselves.

The *Taylor Grazing Act of 1934* and the *Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976* have established grazing as one of many valid public land uses.

205-1: See response to comment 52-1.

207-1: "Apparent trend in rangeland condition" was determined by a one-time inventory. At present, this is the most accurate information we have. In the future this information will be supplemented by rangeland monitoring studies, and management practices will be adjusted as a result of monitoring to meet the planning objectives.

209-1: Under the *Preferred Alternative*, BLM would have the opportunity to extend the terms of concession leases (see *Management of Concessions and Leases* in the *Preferred Alternative*, Chapter 2).

209-2: The recreation concession franchise fees and the formula for construction reimbursement are administrative matters outside the scope of the RMP and are therefore not addressed in this plan.

Adequate guidance for fee decisions and application of construction reimbursement formulas already exist in the present concession contracts, Federal regulations and Bureau-wide policy guidelines presently being developed for concessions management. These guidelines provide for individual fee negotiations between the BLM and the concessionaire. Factors related to these negotiations include capital investment, term of lease/contract, required services and facilities, contribution of BLM services and other matters affecting the profitability of the concession and fair market value.

210-1: The RMP-EIS references include Geology, Energy and Mineral (GEM) assessments prepared for the area. These assessments include extensive data and literature references used to determine the mineral potential for these areas. Mineral resource survey reports prepared by the

USGS and Bureau of Mines are also referenced and were used to determine the mineral potential for several WSAs. The Plan and EIS for the California Desert Conservation Area is referenced and includes references to minerals information and literature used for the evaluation of those areas in California. Numerous other references on mineral and energy resources are cited in the text and listed among *References* in the EIS.

210-2: A discussion of the mineral resource potential classification used in the RMP-EIS has been added to Chapter 3, *Mineral and Energy Resources*.

210-3: The reference to uranium in Table 4-9 of the draft has been deleted. Please also note that Table 4-9 itself has been deleted from the final because of our decision to defer the wilderness issue to a separate document to be prepared in 1986.

210-4: The impacts on mineral and energy resources from rights-of-way and utility corridor alternatives is not significant. Lands open to mineral entry are available for mineral exploration and the development of appropriate access, regardless of whether utility corridors are designated. The discussion in the EIS has been revised.

210-5: An analysis of the mineral potential on lands proposed for acquisition would not affect the management decisions made for the *Land Ownership Adjustment* issue in this RMP. All land acquisitions proposed in the RMP are for the benefit of federal programs covered by the other planning issues. Since mineral development is not a planning issue, the inclusion of a comprehensive evaluation of the mineral potential of proposed land acquisitions is not considered necessary.

210-6: Special Management Areas (SMAs) are not all closed to mineral entry. Many of the alternatives provide for mineral leasing and entry under the mining laws in SMAs. Impacts on mineral and energy resources from those individual SMAs that are closed to mineral entry under the various alternatives are discussed in Chapter 4. For example, the *Preferred Alternative* would withdraw only the Big Maria ACEC from mineral entry and leasing. The impact on mineral and energy resources from this specific withdrawal is discussed in Chapter 4.

The *Mineral and Energy Resources* section in Chapter 3 and *Impacts on Mineral and Energy Resources* from *Alternative E* in Chapter 4 have been revised to reflect mineral values in SMAs.

210-7: A discussion of the mineral resource potential classification used in the RMP-EIS has been added to the *Mineral and Energy Resources* section in Chapter 3. This discussion provides the rationale and basis for the evaluation of mineral potential of the WSAs and some SMAs. The mineral resource data and information used to determine the mineral potential for a specific WSA or SMA is available in the GEM reports and USGS and Bureau of Mines reports for these areas. The only SMA that is withdrawn from mineral entry in the *Preferred Alternative* is the Big Maria ACEC.

210-8: See response to comment 210-6.

210-9: Lands within the proposed Big Marias ACEC are presently withdrawn from mineral entry for Bureau of Reclamation purposes. Since this withdrawal could be revoked if the lands are no longer needed for Bureau of Reclamation purposes, a second withdrawal to specifically protect cultural resources in the area is included as a contingency in the *Preferred Alternative*.

An assessment of the mineral potential of the Big Marias as well as other areas studied for special management has been added to the *Mineral and Energy Resources* section in Chapter 3.

210-10: Mineral exploration and development in SMAs that are managed under special prescriptions to protect their natural values (Whipple Mountains) or are managed as priority wildlife habitat (Laguna Martinez) would be subject to the surface management regulations described for the *Energy and Minerals Program* in *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2). These regulations are applicable to all public lands except those specifically withdrawn from mineral entry; they would not preclude or prohibit mining, but would provide for the development of mitigating measures to minimize potential impacts and prevent unnecessary and undue environmental degradation. The regulations would be applied to individual mining operations on a case-by-case basis through review of notices of intent and mining plans of operation. The only additional restriction that would be placed on mining activities in these areas is the prohibition of sand and gravel permits.

210-11: See response to comment 210-10.

210-12: See response to comment 210-3.

210-13: Locatable mineral exploration and development in Special Management Areas (SMAs) designated under *Alternative D* would be administered in accordance with surface management regulations contained in 43 CFR 3809. These regulations would not preclude or prohibit mining, but would provide for the development of mitigating measures to minimize potential impacts and prevent unnecessary and undue environmental degradation.

210-14: See response to comment 210-6.

212-1: In implementing its RMP decisions, BLM will comply with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' permitting requirements and honor all water treaties between Mexico and the United States. Cases where compliance with Corps of Engineers, International Boundary and Water Commission, or other agency requirements is needed will be identified in activity plans for implementing the RMP and these agencies will be consulted at that time.

212-2: Proceeds from the sale of Federal lands within Bureau of Reclamation project boundaries revert to the Reclamation fund and are credited to construction costs of the project. Boundaries for the Valley Division of the Yuma Project have not yet been agreed upon. However, all actions proposed in the RMP will be implemented in a manner that is consistent with the procedural guidelines of applicable laws, executive orders and national policy.

213-1: With the exception of disposal areas identified in the plan, all BLM-administered lands will be retained in federal ownership under the *Preferred Alternative*. The retained lands include all recreation use areas except Pittsburgh Point. Accordingly, all three of the parcels mentioned in this comment will be maintained in public ownership during the life of the Resource Management Plan.

Section 12 is currently leased to Mohave County under a Bureau of Reclamation Lease for recreation purposes. Section 30 is also leased to Mohave County, but under a Recreation and Public Purposes lease. The Arizona Game and Fish Department has an application pending with BLM to assume management responsibility under a lease agreement for Section 10. Either a lease or a Cooperative Management Agreement (CMA) may result. If so, the area would probably be managed for its wildlife values.

214-1: Sections 7 and 18 were erroneously included in the La Posa LTVA as shown on Map 7. We have revised Map 7 to correct this error.

214-2: Utility corridor designations that are proposed in the RMP apply only to BLM-administered lands. However, BLM recognizes that designated corridors on BLM-administered lands could impact uses on other lands. These impacts will be addressed in site-specific environmental analyses on a case-by-case basis as applications to construct transmission facilities are received. Moreover, actual construction of facilities could only be accomplished with approval of the affected landowners and managers.

It should also be noted that the *Preferred Alternative* proposes a second corridor in this vicinity — corridor UC-7 along Interstate 10 — as an alternate to UC-8.

215-1: We believe that the resources information presently included in the RMP-EIS is adequate for the level of land use and management decisions being considered and made in this plan. General indications of population status are included in the descriptions of wildlife categories and species in Chapter 3. Information on the distribution of species is described in the *Management Situation Analysis* (MSA) — a planning background or base information document available for review at the Yuma District or Havasu Resource Area Offices. (See Appendix A-1 for a description of the MSA step in the planning process.)

As stated in the *Environmental Program* section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2), any site-specific actions and activity plans not specifically analyzed in this RMP-EIS would be analyzed through EAs or EISs, in accordance with NEPA regulations, prior to approval by BLM. Additional detailed information would be collected and included as needed in any site-specific environmental analyses of management actions subsequent to or resulting from this plan.

215-2: Allowable uses and specific management guidelines that would be applied under each alternative to priority wildlife habitat and special management areas are described in Chapter 2. Further site-specific details for managing these areas and sites will be developed in activity plans. BLM will comply with NEPA in developing these activity plans.

215-3: See response to comment 10-5.

215-4: Aquatic habitat management was not addressed in detail in the Resource Management Plan because it was not identified as a planning issue. The *Wildlife and Fisheries Program* section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2) describes general procedures and practices that BLM applies to management of both terrestrial and aquatic habitats. As indicated in that section, wildlife habitat management activities and objectives are normally developed in cooperation and consultation with other agencies and interest groups through the cooperative habitat management planning process established under the Sikes Act (see *Glossary*).

215-5: The *Preferred Alternative* for grazing management on the Havasu Heights North and South allotments has been modified.

215-6: As a multiple-use land managing agency, it would be unreasonable to designate priority areas for all special status species in the district because: a) there are a large number of these species in the district (see *Appendix E* for list), and b) many of these species are widely scattered with few areas of concentration throughout the district. However, special status species are given priority consideration in all actions as a matter of routine procedure. Federally-listed as well as state- and other-listed wildlife species are managed as described in the *Wildlife and Fisheries Program* section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2).

The site-specific details of on-the-ground management for special status species will be addressed in habitat management plans prepared cooperatively with other agencies and interest groups.

215-7: Eight areas would receive some form of special management area protection under the *Preferred Alternative*. Two of these areas would be formally designated, and the remaining six areas would be managed under special prescriptions to protect their natural values.

BLM's reasons for not including all of the areas identified for SMA designation under *Alternative A* in the *Preferred Alternative* are described in the response to comment 10-6.

215-8: There are a variety of reasons why the areas studied for special management area status in this RMP-EIS would not be formally designated or assigned special management prescriptions. The response to comment 10-6 describes these reasons.

215-9: See response to comment 10-7.

215-10: See response to comment 10-2.

215-11: Recreation planning subsequent to adoption of the RMP will be accomplished primarily through a series of activity plans. BLM must comply with NEPA and federal regulations in developing activity plans. These regulations require analysis of the environmental impacts and public review of the environmental documentation and proposed decisions.

215-12: See response to comment 10-10.

215-13: The mitigating measures described in the Final Environmental Assessment and Environmental Impact Report for the 1985 Parker 400 race are applied to the one event held each year on the course. This document was finalized on January 22, 1985, and is available for review at the Havasu Resource Area and Yuma District Offices. In addition, as stated in the *Preferred Alternative*, when more than one annual event is proposed for the Parker course, an environmental assessment (EA) would be developed to determine the number of events that would be authorized. The *Preferred Alternative* also prescribes a course management plan and monitoring of impacts. Where monitoring identifies significant adverse impacts, a new or supplemental EA would be prepared to analyze alternative mitigating measures.

215-14: BLM considers the level of analysis for impacts on wildlife habitat to be adequate for selecting a *Preferred Alternative* from among the RMP alternatives.

The impact projections in the RMP-EIS are general because the decisions are general. The RMP provides general management objectives, guidelines and land use allocations. The site-specific details of management are developed through activity plans as mentioned in Chapter 1 of the RMP-EIS. The site-specific impacts from these activity plans and other actions not specifically projected in the RMP would be analyzed and documented on a case-by-case basis as described in the *Environmental Program* section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2). For this reason, we do not consider a "worst case" analysis to be necessary at this time. BLM would consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies as part of the site-specific analyses to determine appropriate mitigating measures for wildlife habitat.

215-15: A "Monitoring" section has been added to Chapter 2 in the final RMP-EIS.

215-16: *Appendix E* has been revised.

216-1: The *Preferred Alternative* has been revised to clarify exceptions to the seasonal closure of roads traversing bighorn sheep lambing grounds.

216-2: The temporary closure of priority wildlife areas during critical seasons, such as lambing in the case of desert bighorn sheep, is a standard part of terms and conditions of any right-of-way construction grant issued by BLM. The temporary closure of areas during lambing season has been a Stipulation on construction of facilities in corridors 2, 4, 5 and 8 for the past five years and will continue to be enforced as part of the RMP recommendations.

218-1: The corridors proposed for designation in the Draft RMP-EIS were identified on the basis of input from the utilities industry as described in Table 5-1.

In addition, three criteria were used to determine potential corridors to be analyzed in the RMP-EIS. These were:

1) the corridor was proposed by either the Western Regional Corridor Study or a utility company

2) adequate public lands were available to accommodate a corridor along the proposed alignment

3) the potential corridor contained existing facilities or definitely planned future facilities.

The existence of a transmission line was not considered sufficient justification alone for designating a utility corridor.

It should also be noted that with the exception of wilderness study, special management and priority wildlife habitat areas, other locations for transmission lines have not been precluded by the proposed RMP. The *Preferred Alternative* would permit BLM to authorize placement of utility lines on public lands outside of designated corridors when there is a legitimate need to do so.

218-2: Proposed corridors have been limited to one-mile in width in most cases for one or both of the following reasons:

1) lack of adequate public lands to accommodate corridors of greater than one mile in width, and

2) the presence of significant natural or cultural values.

Additionally, we believe the one-mile wide corridors are sufficient to accommodate needs projected through 1995 by the utility industry.

218-3: See response to comment 195-1.

219-1: See response to comment 10-10.

219-2: A full discussion on how grazing will be administered and monitored can be found in Chapter 2 under *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives.*

219-3: Special status species are given priority consideration in all actions as a matter of routine procedure. Federally-listed as well as state- and other-listed wildlife species are managed as described in the *Wildlife and Fisheries Program* section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2). The site-specific detail of on-the-ground management for special status species will be addressed in habitat management plans prepared cooperatively with other agencies and interest groups.

220-1: The Southwest Powerlink 500 kV transmission line is shown as UC-9 on Map 8. Also, Map 6, *Land Status,* has been changed to reflect the lands mentioned in this comment.

221-1: See response to comment 10-10.

228-1: The language used in this section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* is drawn directly from the 1975 Management Framework Plans (MFPs). The section presents specific management guidance from the MFPs that would continue to be applied to public land management under the RMP. Despite this language, BLM will prevent to its best ability the introduction of exotic species on BLM-administered lands.

228-2: The *Preferred Alternative* does not authorize unrestricted or unregulated mining activity anywhere in the district. All mining operations approved by BLM must comply with federal and state laws and regulations pertaining to surface reclamation and environmental degradation. Specifically, the regulatory standards established in federal regulation 43 CFR 3800 would continue to be applied to all mining activities, as stated in the *Energy and Minerals Program* section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2).

228-3: Details of enforcement will be developed in activity plans for implementing the RMP.

228-4: See response to comment 10-10.

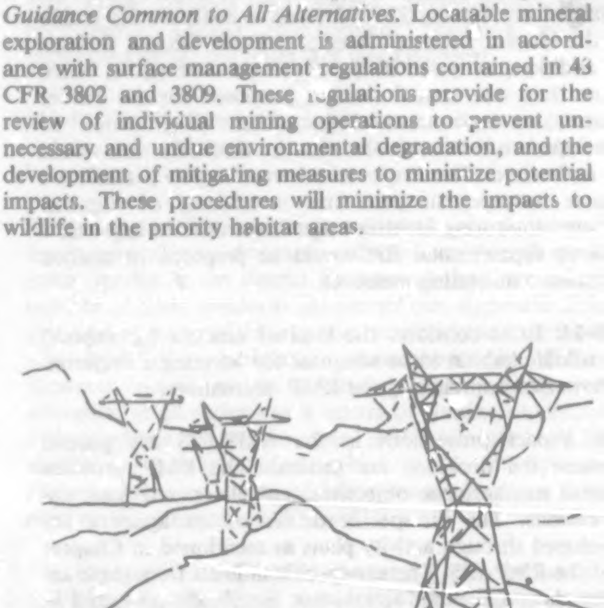
228-5: Other species and habitats do receive BLM's attention. Concern for state-listed species has been a dominant part of our wildlife habitat program in the past and will continue to be so in the future. As stated in the *Wildlife and Fisheries Program* section in *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives.* the Yuma District consults with state agencies to identify appropriate mitigating measures as a standard procedure in evaluating proposed actions that may affect state-listed wildlife species.

The species mentioned in this comment, as well as all other specially-listed species, are routinely considered by BLM in evaluating and making decisions on proposed actions.

228-6: The text and *Appendix E* have been revised to reflect the correct status of this species.

228-7: The Yuma District is actively seeking to restore and enhance Yuma clapper rail habitat. BLM participates as a member on the interagency Yuma Clapper Rail Recovery Team. A recovery plan has been developed by this group to enhance clapper rail habitat and numbers. In addition, the *Preferred Alternative* proposes special management and priority wildlife habitat areas that would benefit the clapper rail. For example, all remaining riparian habitats would be designated as priority wildlife habitat area regardless of present condition.

228-8: Mineral and energy development was not identified as a planning issue in the RMP scoping process. The discussion of environmental consequences for each alternative focuses only on those impacts that would arise from the decisions on the planning issues. Mineral activity and development are managed on a day-to-day or site-specific basis. The management guidelines for mineral and energy resources are summarized in Chapter 2 under *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives.* Locatable mineral exploration and development is administered in accordance with surface management regulations contained in 43 CFR 3802 and 3809. These regulations provide for the review of individual mining operations to prevent unnecessary and undue environmental degradation, and the development of mitigating measures to minimize potential impacts. These procedures will minimize the impacts to wildlife in the priority habitat areas.



228-9: Mitigating measures for impacts on wildlife from actions not specifically projected in the RMP will be developed by BLM on a site-specific basis as part of the environmental process described in the *Environmental Program* section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2).

228-10: *Appendix F* has been revised. The source for *Appendix F* is Yuma District files. The footnote to the table itself has been revised to add this clarification.

228-11: Impacts from ephemeral grazing on wildlife are virtually non-existent since little ephemeral grazing actually occurs in the district, and competition between livestock and wildlife species for ephemeral forage occurs infrequently and only on a site-specific as opposed to habitat-wide basis.

Desert tortoises are scattered in low density numbers throughout the northern portions of the district. Areas of concentration are not known to exist. Accordingly, it is impractical to manage the widely scattered low numbers of this species through ephemeral forage allocations.

Trends cannot be determined for ephemeral species because they are short-lived, dependent upon annual climatic conditions and may not appear every year.

228-12: By proposing to put this allotment in the maintain category, BLM is indicating that the present grazing management (non-use) is causing no serious resource conflicts. If the grazing practices change on this allotment and resource conflicts become apparent, the management category would be changed.

228-13: The Cactus Plain area would be managed in a manner that would ensure maintenance of the area's existing unique plant community and the stability of the dune ecosystem, as stated in the *Preferred Alternative*. The specific strategies and techniques for accomplishing this will be developed in the Allotment Management Plans for the two allotments.

228-14: The allotment categorization (M-I-C) establishes priorities for distributing management funds and personnel. The fact that Bishop allotment is in the "C" category rather than "I" indicates it has fewer resource conflicts than "I" category allotments. Until funds and personnel are available, "C" category allotments will be managed to prevent resource deterioration as indicated in the *Allotment Categorization* section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2).

228-15: Unique natural areas and features in the Yuma District were identified from a variety of sources, including district files, studies and reports prepared by other agencies or organizations, and contacts with state park systems and affiliated natural heritage organizations in Arizona and California. Many of these areas, including Crossman Peak, Gibraltar Mountain, the Big Marias and Muggins Mountains were not identified in the Yuma District MFPs or supporting documents.

228-16: There are no Yuma clapper rails in the Aubrey Hills area to our knowledge. Numerous surveys of bird populations have failed to locate any clapper rails along this length of the river.

228-17: The description of the Laguna-Martinez area (see *Unique Natural Areas*, Chapter 3) has been revised to include information on the yellow-billed cuckoo.

228-18: On the basis of the factors of evaluation described in the response to comment 10-6 and additional information, BLM has concluded that the Yuma Desert should not receive special management area consideration under the *Preferred Alternative*.

The area is on lands withdrawn by the Bureau of Reclamation to form the "five mile zone" along the border with Mexico. This zone is intended for development of water wells to pump Colorado River groundwater back into the river in order to meet the United States water commitment to Mexico (1977 Mexican Treaty). Furthermore, parts of this area have been proposed for use as a sanitary landfill site and the new Yuma County Prison site.

228-19: Management policies or prescriptions for special management areas under *Alternative C* are described in the *Special Management Areas* issue for *Alternative C*.

The *Preferred Alternative* incorporates management actions from the entire range of alternatives, depending on the need for a specific issue; it does not necessarily provide a perfect balance between resource development and resource protection for each individual issue or subissue, nor is it a balance between *Alternatives C* and *D*.

228-20: On the basis of the factors of evaluation described in the response to comment 10-6, BLM does not consider the natural values in the Gila Mountains to be significant enough to warrant specific management prescriptions. Management under general multiple use guidelines is considered sufficient to adequately protect resources in the area.

228-21: We assume that this comment refers to the five special management areas that would not be formally designated in the *Preferred Alternative* but would be managed under special prescriptions to protect their natural values. The management prescriptions for these areas are described in the *Unique Natural Areas and Features* section of the *Preferred Alternative*. More detailed, site-specific management actions, objectives and strategies would be determined through the development of activity plans for managing each individual SMA.

activity plans would be developed in accordance with the public participation and environmental review requirements of NEPA.

228-22: All BLM-administered riparian lands remaining along the three rivers in the Yuma District would be managed as priority wildlife habitat under the *Preferred Alternative.*

228-23: Threatened and endangered (T&E) plants are protected under the Endangered Species Act. The section on T&E plants has been revised to further explain management procedures that are required and applied by BLM when actions are proposed which could affect T&E plant species.

228-24: With the exception of portions of UC-6B, UC-7, UC-10, UC-11 and UC-12, all of the utility corridors identified in the RMP follow existing utility rights-of-way. Existing utility rights-of-way and expected demand for utility and communication sites in the next five to twenty years are discussed in detail in the Yuma District *Management Situation Analysis*, a planning background document that is available for review at the Yuma District and Havasu Resource Area Offices.

Corridors that do not follow existing utility rights-of-way are proposed for designation only in instances where such routings are needed for consistency with other RMP management objectives.

228-25: BLM cannot accurately predict the need for additional recreation lands over the life of the plan. Consequently, such needs will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Site-specific impacts from the expansion of recreation areas to adjacent or new public lands would be assessed and mitigated in accordance with NEPA using an EA or EIS process prior to approval by BLM. Furthermore, any future recreation expansion would be required to be consistent with resource management objectives contained in the RMP for floodplain, wildlife habitat and other values.

228-26: See response to comment 10-10.

228-27: Certain recreation facilities and uses, such as day-use recreation areas and overnight camping in some places, would not conflict with floodplain management objectives. Through proper design, location, and management, these facilities and uses could occur in the floodplain without substantially disrupting wildlife habitat or other natural and beneficial floodplain values.

Riparian areas and wildlife habitat would not benefit from management actions under *Alternative B*, as none of the restoration projects associated with priority wildlife habitat designations would be implemented on these lands. However, the absence of benefit from such projects is not considered inconsistent with BLM Floodplain Manual 7221.

228-28: BLM cannot predict the need for new concessions and leases or the expansion of existing concessions and leases over the life of the RMP. Consequently, such actions would be addressed on a case-by-case basis under the *Preferred Alternative*. As indicated in the *Environmental Program* section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2), the impacts from these actions would be analyzed through site-specific EAs or EISs in accordance with NEPA regulations before approval by BLM. The actions would also be constrained by other management objectives established in the RMP.

228-29: User profiles, preferences and benefit-cost analyses are commonly applied to recreation market and feasibility analyses. Analysis of these factors will indicate whether expansion would: a) help to satisfy existing unmet demand and b) be economically viable. These, together with protection of wildlife and riparian values, are the criteria BLM would use in deciding whether to authorize proposals for expansion.

228-30: Floodplain delineation is discussed under the *Floodplain Protection Program* section in *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2).

228-31: BLM does not consider long-term camping to be a legitimate use of utility rights-of-way on public lands. Actual displacement depends on the width of the right-of-way and the type of facilities constructed. In most cases, utility use of a corridor would remove much less than the 1,900 acres mentioned.

228-32: See response to comment 10-2.

228-33: See response to comment 204-1.

228-34: We have no intention of disposing of lands within the river floodplains. The *Disposals* section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2) has been changed to include "riparian habitat" as a condition which would preclude transferring lands within a disposal area from federal ownership. Instances where riparian floodplains may inadvertently fall within disposal areas will be identified during the site-specific analyses required for disposals; these lands would subsequently be excluded from disposal.

228-35: The RMP does not specify which non-federal lands would be acquired in exchange for which federal lands. Rather it simply identifies those federal lands that will be available for disposal and those non-federal lands that BLM would like to acquire in order to enhance management of federal programs on-the-ground. The specific details of land exchanges will be subsequently identified on a case-by-case basis.

Please note also that Disposal Area 9 has been dropped from the list of public land areas that would be available for disposal under the *Preferred Alternative.*

228-36: Lands acquired for wilderness would be closed to mineral entry, resulting in a net loss of acreage that would be open to mineral entry under the General Mining Law of 1872. This net loss is illustrated in Table 4-3. In the case of *Alternative D* in the draft EIS, for example, only 39,940 acres out of 50,120 acres that are acquired would be open to mineral entry while the remaining 10,180 acres (which were to be acquired for wilderness) would be closed to mineral entry.

Please note that the wilderness issue has been deferred to a separate environmental document to be prepared in 1986. There are no wilderness recommendations in this final RMP-EIS. Accordingly, Table 4-3 has been deleted in the final.

228-37: "Area 3" refers to Disposal Area 3 as indicated on Map 9. The text has been revised to clarify this.

228-38: This comment is correct. The *Preferred Alternative* provides for exceptions to the seasonal road closures in lambing grounds for certain uses and situations. Development of active mining claims is included among these possible exceptions. However, the seasonal road closures would affect minerals exploration by eliminating access to and therefore exploration of those areas that are outside of active mining claims.

228-39: Mineral and energy development was not identified as a planning issue in the RMP scoping process. The discussion of environmental consequences for each alternative focuses only on those impacts that would arise from the decisions on the planning issues. Consequently, impacts from mineral and energy development in the Yuma District were not addressed in the RMP.

Impacts from mineral and energy development, mitigation measures and surface reclamation requirements will continue to be addressed for individual mining operations on a case-by-case basis in accordance with existing law and federal regulations as described in the *Energy and Minerals Program* section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2).

228-40: See response to comment 215-13.

228-41: Under the *Preferred Alternative*, impacts on wildlife from grazing on the Nine-Mile allotment would be minor. Since these impacts are not considered significant, specific mitigating measures are not necessary.

228-42: See response to comment 215-15.

229-1: The riparian lands identified under the *Preferred Alternative* for management as priority wildlife habitat will not affect or be affected by the channel enhancement project on the Gila River.

230-1: The *Community Expansion* provisions in *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2) would allow BLM to make federal lands within the Yuma Crossing Park boundaries available for park and recreation purposes through Recreation and Public Purpose leases.

262-1: Public participation opportunities that have been offered to the Colorado River Indian Tribes (CRIT), as well as other interest groups and individuals, are listed in Table 5-1. Other public input opportunities have been provided to CRIT, including: a) a private meeting to scope issues for the Havasu RMP in 1982, b) a briefing meeting on the draft RMP-EIS in March 1985 and c) numerous meetings of the District Advisory Council attended by CRIT representatives.

262-2: BLM has revised the *Preferred Alternative* to include provisions for phasing out facilities at the Black Peak communication site. In addition, the utility corridor has been narrowed to less than one-mile in width as it passes Black Peak in order to avoid construction of transmission facilities on the Peak itself.

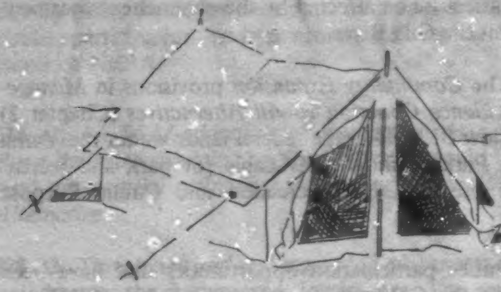
262-3: The lands mentioned in this comment were transferred in partial compensation for the overall federal land debt to the State of Arizona through the State Indemnity-Lieu Selection process. Notices of classification for transfer and requests for comments were published in the *Federal Register* in mid-July 1981 and in the *Parker Pioneer* newspaper for five consecutive weeks beginning August 6, 1981.

BLM does not foresee any actions on lands that have already been disposed of or are identified for disposal in the RMP that would substantially affect uses and environmental conditions within the Colorado River Indian Reservation or cultural resources located nearby.

None of the land disposals along the Colorado River Indian Reservation boundary that have already occurred or are identified in the RMP are related to potential mining activities.

262-4: See response to comment 262-1.

262-5: "Priority wildlife habitat areas" are those public land areas on which priority will be given to the protection, maintenance and improvement of wildlife habitat values. "Special management prescriptions" are guidelines that will be applied to special management areas, both those with formal titles such as ACEC and Outstanding Natural Area, and those without titles. "Key wildlife" is used interchangeably with "priority wildlife" in the EIS (see Priority Wildlife Species in *Glossary*).



Allowable uses and specific management guidelines that would be applied to priority wildlife habitat, cultural resource sites and special management areas are addressed in the descriptions of each of the plan alternatives for Issues 1 and 2. Further site-specific details for managing these areas and sites will be developed in activity plans. BLM will comply with NEPA in developing activity plans.

262-6: As indicated in Chapter 5, BLM has consulted and coordinated with the California Desert District, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Transportation in all phases of the RMP.

262-7: The Big Maria ACEC is confined to the southern half, or that portion of the Big Maria Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) area having the highest concentration of cultural resources. While the northern half of the CRMP area contains important cultural values, they are sparsely distributed and do not justify managing the entire CRMP area as an ACEC at this time. Several smaller areas in the northern half of the CRMP area will be managed under the guidelines for cultural resource sites contained in the Resource Management Plan (see *Cultural Resources* in the *Preferred Alternative*).

Guidelines and restrictions for managing the Big Maria ACEC are described under *Natural Areas and Features* in the *Preferred Alternative*.

263-1: The *Preferred Alternative* of the RMP establishes a permanent Arizona loop of the Parker ORV race course. The existing route has been thoroughly analyzed for environmental impacts through the annual evaluation occurring prior to issuing a race permit. Analysis of alternative course alignments is beyond the scope of this Resource Management Plan. Minor adjustments to the race course can be accomplished during the annual review of race impacts and mitigating measures. A separate environmental analysis would be required to evaluate the impacts of alignment alternatives and other race management changes.

265-1: We believe that the present level of analysis contained in the RMP-EIS is adequate for making a reasoned decision, and further that an analysis of the cumulative impacts of public land withdrawals would not significantly alter the selection of the *Preferred Alternative*.

265-2: See response to comment 216-1.

265-3: See response to comment 202-1.

265-4: Table 4-1 lists major actions which have the potential to adversely affect Cultural Resources. Under the heading of Unauthorized Activities, the table lists "Mining and occupancy trespass." Under the heading of Authorized Activities is listed "Mining-related activities." To reduce the possibility for misinterpretation, "mining and occupancy trespass" has been revised to read "mining trespass and occupancy trespass."

265-5: The review of Bureau of Reclamation and other agency withdrawals is addressed in the *General Lands Program* section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2).

Because the wilderness issue has been deferred to a separate environmental document to be prepared in 1986, none of the management actions under the *Preferred Alternative* would result in the withdrawal of additional acreage in the Yuma District from mineral entry. The 5,280 acre Big Marias area is presently under Bureau of Reclamation withdrawal.

265-6: See response to comment 202-1.

266-1: Area 9 has been eliminated from the lands that would be available for disposal under the *Preferred Alternative*.

268-1: Priority wildlife habitat areas proposed in the plan reflect desert bighorn sheep range because potential threats from incompatible uses would directly affect the suitability of habitat for this species and therefore affect the population or numbers of this species. Potential threats to desert tortoise habitat are site-specific in nature and would not reduce the overall suitability of habitat or diminish the population size on a large scale.

As a state- and federally-listed species, desert tortoise will be managed and protected as described under the *Wildlife and Fisheries Program* section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2).

268-2: BLM does not consider a "worst case" analysis to be necessary for impacts from RMP management actions on the desert tortoise. As indicated in the *Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species Habitat* section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2), no activities or projects that would jeopardize the continued existence of the desert tortoise or other threatened and endangered species would be allowed on BLM-administered lands. To ensure that this guidance is followed, impacts from actions not specifically projected in the RMP would be subject to site-specific environmental analyses. Site-specific analyses would include consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Arizona Game

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and Fish Department and the California Department of Fish and Game on possible impacts to the desert tortoise.

268-3: Ephemeral forage is restored during periods of abundant moisture. Ephemeral species are opportunistic, growing and reproducing at any time of the year under suitable temperature and moisture conditions.

268-4: Standard stipulations for oil and gas leasing are listed in federal regulation 43 CFR 3100. There are no standard stipulations for mining plans of operation.

268-5: See response to comment 157-1.

268-6: See response to comment 10-10.

268-7: No specific adverse impacts on desert tortoise are identified in Chapter 4. Accordingly, no mitigation measures were developed. The site-specific impacts on desert tortoise from activity plans and other proposed actions subsequent to the RMP will be identified through separate environmental analyses. Appropriate mitigating measures would be developed as part of these analyses. In addition, state wildlife agencies and other interest groups and individuals, including the Desert Tortoise Council, will be consulted during preparation of these analyses.

268-8: See response to comment 215-15.

268-9: Appendix E has been revised.

269-1: Potential SMAs are characterized by significant natural, cultural or scenic resources. WSAs may include significant natural, cultural or scenic resources, but are characterized by roadlessness, naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation. SMAs and WSAs overlap each other because these characteristics can be in both areas.

Whereas WSAs are recommended for wilderness designation primarily to protect the wilderness characteristics of roadlessness, naturalness and outstanding opportunities for solitude or primitive recreation, SMAs are intended to protect the specific natural, cultural or scenic resources for which the area is recognized. SMA characteristics can be protected without applying the rigid, restrictive guidelines applied to designated wilderness areas. See response to comment 10-6 for a description of the criteria BLM used for making decisions on potential SMAs.

269-2: Each of the special management areas designated in the Resource Management Plan is established to protect or enhance specific natural or cultural resources. The discussion on *Issue 2: Special Management Areas in the Preferred Alternative* provides a description of the general management approach for each area.

After the RMP is adopted, BLM will prepare an activity plan for each special management area. The activity plan establishes detailed and site-specific management actions, objectives and strategies. Preparation of each plan includes appropriate environmental impact analysis documentation. Factors that would be addressed in the environmental review include potential impacts to water quality, air quality, other environmental resources and appropriate mitigation.

269-3: As a standard procedure, all proposed actions with potential for resource disturbance are analyzed on a site-specific basis through an EA or EIS in accordance with the requirements of NEPA.

269-4: Acreage totals in Table 2-1 include not only those areas that would have specific designated labels such as Outstanding Natural Area or ACEC assigned to them, but also undesignated areas (indicated in the table by "No*") where special management prescriptions would be applied to protect natural values.

The footnotes to Table 2-1 have been revised to clarify acreage totals for the alternatives.

269-5: Other than those described in the *Preferred Alternative*, plans for improvements on the Ganado and Nine-Mile Allotments are not firm now, but would be addressed in individual Allotment Management Plans (AMPs). The AMPs are prepared in consultation with the allotment operator and other affected parties, and include an analysis of environmental impacts. Clarification about the timing of grazing use on perennial-ephemeral and ephemeral allotments can be found in the *Grazing Administration* section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2) and in Chapter 3 under the *Rangeland Resources* section of the RMP-EIS.

269-6: Water quality was not identified through the scoping process as a planning issue. The major water resources in Yuma District are managed under the auspices of the Bureau of Reclamation for river control management. The few springs and water developments under BLM's direction are managed in accordance with habitat management plans that have been prepared for wildlife.

The impacts of decisions under the various alternatives on water quality are discussed under the *General Impacts* section of Chapter 4. The management of riparian values is also addressed in the RMP-EIS.

The potential impacts from proposed actions on water quality are assessed by BLM as a standard procedure in carrying out site-specific environmental analyses.

269-7: The 23,100 acres of riparian vegetation that would be managed as priority wildlife habitat under the *Preferred Alternative* (25,000 acres in the draft) represents all of the remaining riparian areas in the Yuma District that are administered by BLM. Since all remaining riparian areas, including those around springs, would be protected as priority wildlife habitat, no additional mitigating measures are considered necessary.

Wilderness areas and water resources would be protected under provisions described in *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2). No further protection through mitigating measures is considered necessary.

The *Preferred Alternative* has been revised to clarify the amount of riparian acreage in the Yuma District that would be managed as priority wildlife habitat.

269–8: Background data on air quality is contained in the Yuma District Management Situation Analysis. This planning background document is available for public review at the Yuma District and Havasu Resource Area Offices. In addition, expected impacts from RMP decisions on air quality are discussed under *General Impacts on Physical Features* in Chapter 4.

269–9: Nothing in the RMP-EIS is intended to imply an authorization for or decision to use pesticides on public lands. BLM operates under strict guidelines for usage of pesticides. Proposed pesticide applications are reviewed and evaluated on a case-by-case, site- specific basis through an EA or EIS.

271–1: Utility corridor designations proposed in the RMP do not apply to non-federal agricultural and other private lands. However, BLM recognizes that designated corridors on BLM-administered lands could impact uses on non-federal lands. These impacts will be addressed in site-specific environmental documents prepared on a case-by-case basis as applications to construct transmission facilities are received.

271–2: We believe that the impacts on wildlife projected in Chapter 4 are adequate for the level of management decisions contained in the RMP. Moreover, the species mentioned in this comment would not be adversely affected by implementation of decisions in the RMP. In fact, they would more likely benefit on balance as a result of management objectives and guidelines for priority wildlife habitat and special management areas contained in the RMP.

271–3: The *Preferred Alternative* generally provides for continuation of recreation uses already occurring on the Yuma District. Site-specific actions which would modify existing recreation uses and opportunities will be addressed in recreation activity plans. These plans require analysis of environmental impacts and public review of the possible impacts and proposed decisions. BLM will consult with Riverside County on proposed actions that might affect or be affected by uses and environmental conditions in the County at the time activity plans and associated environmental analyses are being prepared.

309–1: This comment refers to management guidelines that would be applied within priority wildlife habitat areas. Each of the alternatives for wildlife habitat management specifies whether utility access roads would be open or closed to public use. Utility roads would be closed to public access under *Alternatives C, D, E* and the *Preferred Alternative*.

309–2: ORV use of utility access roads was not identified specifically as a planning issue through the scoping process. Accordingly, the impacts from ORV use on these roads specifically are not discussed. However, the impacts from utility access road closures in priority wildlife habitat areas and ORV designations are discussed in the sections of Chapter 4 describing impacts from the wildlife habitat and recreation alternatives respectively.

311–1: See response to comment 215–1.

311–2: See response to comment 215–15.

311–3: Management restrictions and guidelines for areas of critical environmental concern, research natural areas, outstanding natural areas, natural scenic areas or other special management area designations are addressed in the descriptions of each of the plan alternatives for *Issue 2: Special Management Areas*. Further details for managing these areas will be developed in site-specific activity plans subsequent to approval of the RMP. These activity plans will be prepared in accordance with the public involvement and environmental analysis procedures required by NEPA.

311–4: The *Threatened, Endangered and Sensitive Species Habitat* section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* has been revised to include species proposed for listing.

311–5: Despite a 10-year permit, the BLM has the option of a downward or upward adjustment in livestock numbers if monitoring data indicates that the present grazing use is not meeting land use plans or management objectives. See the 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) section 4130.6-3.

311–6: Rangeland monitoring intervals for the individual allotments vary depending upon range condition and potential, allotment management objectives and potential conflicts within allotments. Specific monitoring information for each allotment is in the Lower Gila Monitoring Plan which may be reviewed at the BLM Yuma or Phoenix District Offices.

311–7: Under the *Preferred Alternative*, riparian areas that are administered by BLM would be managed as priority wildlife habitat in accordance with the management guidelines and restrictions described for the Wildlife Habitat issue. Further details for managing priority wildlife habitat areas will be developed in site-specific habitat management plans subsequent to approval of the RMP. These plans will be developed in accordance with the requirements of *NEPA* and the *Sikes Act*.

311-8: BLM does not consider the designation of priority wildlife habitat areas for all state-listed species to be reasonable because: a) there are a large number of these species in the district, and b) many of these species are widely scattered with few areas of concentration throughout the district.

Wildlife and plant species that are listed by Arizona or California as endangered, threatened or rare would already be protected by provisions indicated in the *Wildlife and Fisheries Program* section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2). These provisions require BLM to consult with the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the California Department of Fish and Game before implementing any projects that may affect these species.

311-9: See response to comment 10-10.

311-10: See response to comment 215-4.

311-11: See response to comment 10-6.

311-12: The description of the Aubrey Hills area (*Unique Natural Areas*, Chapter 3) has been revised to more accurately describe the area's character and status.

311-13: Cactus Plain is proposed for special management. We believe the management prescriptions described in the *Preferred Alternative* will provide adequate protection to the area's unique natural values. In addition, a large part of the Cactus Plain area was recommended for designation as wilderness in the draft RMP-EIS. For these reasons, formal designation as an ACEC, Outstanding Natural Area or other title was not considered necessary for protecting this area.

311-14: See response to comment 311-3.

311-15: See response to comment 192-7.

311-16: Under the *Preferred Alternative*, no increases in grazing or new rangeland improvements would be allowed on the Cactus Plain portions of the Nine-Mile and Ganado allotments unless it can be shown that no adverse impacts to the area's natural values and wilderness values would result.

The Cactus Plain area is proposed for special management. Only those rangeland developments that are consistent with maintenance of this area's unique plant community and the stability of the dune ecosystem would be authorized.

311-17: The *Preferred Alternative* has been revised to read "maintain good and excellent rangeland condition on an average of 67% of the acreage."

311-18: During dry years when little ephemeral vegetation is present, grazing is not authorized on ephemeral allotments. When wet years occur and it is determined by an authorized officer that enough forage is available for both wildlife and livestock, grazing is authorized on a case-by-case basis. The number of livestock and period of grazing use are subject to multiple-use objectives in the RMP and subsequent activity plans. As a general rule, ephemeral stocking rates are based on 50% utilization of the projected available forage. The remaining 50% is allocated to wildlife. However, our experience has shown that livestock has used only 10-30% of the overall forage that has been available when ephemeral grazing has been authorized.

Ephemeral allotments are monitored using a series of photo-points taken every other year.

311-19: The land acquisitions proposed for the benefit of unique natural values are all located within or immediately adjacent to areas proposed for special management area status. In addition, a majority of the acquisitions for wildlife habitat purposes are within or adjacent to proposed priority wildlife habitat areas. Accordingly, these acquired lands would be subject to the same management prescriptions described in the *Preferred Alternative* for Issues 1 and 2.

311-20: All new major transmission facilities would be restricted to designated corridors wherever feasible. The only exceptions would be those facilities which require special spacing or have other unusual requirements which preclude locating in a designated corridor. Facilities to be located outside designated corridors would be identified in the environmental analysis of the right-of-way granting process.

In addition, local distribution facilities, i.e., powerlines less than 69 kV, telephone lines to individual homes or subdivisions, or county and private roads, etc., cannot logically be restricted to corridors. These actions are handled on a case-by-case basis as described in *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2).

311-21: See response to comment 214-2.

311-22: See response to comment 10-2.

311-23: The word "significant" has been replaced with "adverse" in the final RMP-EIS.

311-24: The two areas mentioned in the text (the Parker race course and Ehrenberg Sand Bowl) are competitive use areas. Copper Basin Wash Sand Dunes and Crossroads, as shown on Map 2, are other areas that have been designated under the Open-Intensive ORV use category (see Table

2-7) in the *Preferred Alternative*. Map 2 is correct as printed; the dots west of Laguna Dam and north of the Wellton-Mohawk Valley reflect Yuma District boundary revisions and are unrelated to ORV designations.

311-25: The *Preferred Alternative* provides for the designation of non-collection areas through recreation activity plans and associated environmental analyses. The purpose of this second tier of planning is to provide for site-specific decisions in greater detail than is possible in the RMP. As stated in the *Preferred Alternative*, areas with important or high wildlife values and areas where recreational use has nuded an area will be designated as non-collection areas through the recreation activity plans.

311-26: Summary Table S-2 is the same as Table 2-11 (Table 2-12 in the draft). Both tables summarize the impacts that would result from implementing the various plan alternatives. The statement on page xiii of the draft was intended to refer to the projected impact on range forage production or grazing capacity that would result over the long term from implementation of the *Preferred Alternative*. Grazing use would not be increased initially, but range forage production would increase by approximately 94% in the long term as a result of allotment management plans, range improvements and grazing systems that would be developed and applied under this alternative. Accordingly, we believe the statement in Tables S-2 and 2-11 is correct.

To avoid future misinterpretations of this type, the statement in Tables S-2 and 2-11 has been revised to read: "Forage production would increase by 3,756 AUMs....."

Please refer to the discussions of impacts on wildlife habitat from grazing that appear in Chapter 4 for a full explanation of impacts under the *Preferred Alternative* and *Alternatives B* and *D*.

311-27: Adding all the acreages for these areas will total more than 412,520 acres because the priority wildlife habitat area, special management area and wilderness overlap each other in some places. Please note that the above total is from the draft and is changed in the final because of changes that have been made in the *Preferred Alternative*.

311-28: While not summarized in Table 2-11 (2-12 in the draft EIS), economic impacts from increased recreational development under the *Preferred Alternative* are discussed in *Impacts of the Preferred Alternative*.

311-29: Statistics for backcountry use and firewood collection are not readily available. While some information is available for specialized uses such as deer hunting, BLM is unaware of any general backcountry recreation use figures maintained by state wildlife agencies or any other entity or individual. BLM welcomes any additional data which may be added to either the RMP or the MSA.

We believe our general statements in Chapter 3 concerning backcountry recreation use and firewood collection are sufficient for analyzing and deciding among the alternatives in the RMP-EIS. Backcountry recreation use accounts for a relatively small amount of the total recreation use in the Yuma District. The continual decrease of "dead and down" wood at heavily used recreation sites indicates that firewood is a declining resource.

311-30: The description of Yuma Desert has been revised.

311-31: Data on population stability and numbers are not appropriate to the level of analysis and decision-making contained in the RMP-EIS. These data are more appropriately used in development of site-specific habitat management plans (HMPs). BLM coordinates closely with state wildlife agencies and other interested groups and individuals during preparation of HMPs. (See also response to 215-1.)

311-32: State-listed wildlife species are listed in *Appendix E*. The appendix has been revised to correct listing status of the razorback sucker.

311-33: The statement under *Raptors* in Chapter 3 refers to recent short-term trends in raptor populations. The long-term trend has been one of decline. Once-abundant species, such as the peregrine falcon, elf owl and Harris' hawk, have vanished or become so reduced in number that their status in the district has become jeopardized. However, recent species reintroductions and habitat improvements have served to halt decline and, for some species, increase or reestablish populations.

The statement in Chapter 3 has been changed to "currently stable" to indicate the recent trend.

311-34: BLM will include an implementation priorities schedule in the Record-of-Decision for the RMP.

311-35: As indicated in Chapter 1, the life of the plan is ten to twenty years. The RMP will be revised or amended based on the needs for change as indicated by monitoring. (See *Monitoring the Resource Management Plan*, Chapter 2.)

311-36: BLM considers priority wildlife habitat and special management area designations under all alternatives to generally benefit wildlife by restricting allowable uses and protecting habitat conditions. The specific details of beneficial impacts are described in the analyses of *Impacts on Wildlife* for each alternative. While it is true that mineral and energy development and some other uses may occur or be allowed in priority wildlife habitat and SMAs, the impacts from these specific actions will be analyzed and mitigated on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the *Wildlife and Fisheries Program* and *Environmental Program* sections of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2).

311-37: The impacts of RMP decisions on wildlife outside of priority wildlife habitat or special management areas are described in the *Impacts on Wildlife* sections for each alternative.

311-38: The text and *Appendix E* have been revised to reflect this and other comments.

311-39: BLM considers the level of analysis for grazing impacts to be adequate for selecting among the RMP alternatives. Further substantive analyses would not aid in RMP level decision-making or change the decisions at this time.

The *Preferred Alternative* proposes no initial change in grazing stocking rates in part because the resulting impacts are difficult to ascertain. Grazing would be monitored to determine adjustments that might become necessary to achieve resource management objectives established in the RMP and subsequent activity plans.

Future adjustments in stocking rates or grazing management practices would be made if and when monitoring indicates a change is needed to protect the Cactus Plain and La Posa Plain ecosystems. In addition, the site-specific impacts from grazing actions not specifically projected in this RMP would be analyzed on a case-by-case basis as described in the *Environmental Program* section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2). For these reasons, we do not believe a "worst case" analysis to be necessary.

311-40: In the absence of a specific need for any further measures, BLM considers the mitigating measures for impacts of RMP management actions on wildlife to be adequate.

Mitigating measures for impacts from actions not specifically projected in the RMP will be developed by BLM on a site-specific basis as part of the environmental process described in the *Environmental Program* section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2). As part of this process, BLM will consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other appropriate agencies.

311-41: *Appendix E* has been revised.

311-42: See response to comment 215-5.

311-43: See response to comment 214-1.

316-1: See response to comment 212-1.

316-2: None of the Yuma District RMP decisions would either affect the Gila River floodplain or be affected by flood flows in the Gila River. Consequently, detailed consideration of potential Gila River flooding in the RMP is not necessary. BLM will continue to coordinate proposals involving the Gila River floodplain with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on a case-by-case basis.

317-1: See response to comment 218-2.

326-1: See response to comment 10-10.

326-2: The difference between formal designation as an ACEC, Outstanding Natural Area or other designated title, and management under "special prescriptions to protect natural values" is minor; both measures will protect the area's natural or cultural values.

Several factors combined to warrant formal designations for Crossman Peak and the Big Marias. These factors include: a) a high potential for serious conflict, b) the significance of the natural and cultural values involved and c) a high public visibility and opinion in favor of designation. With the exception of Cactus Plain, the potential conflicts, values and public opinion relative to the other non-designated SMAs referred to in this comment are not nearly as high. BLM believes that management under the special prescriptions described in the *Preferred Alternative* will provide adequate protection for the unique natural values in these areas.

See response to comment 311-13 for a description of our rationale for not formally designating Cactus Plain.

326-3: See response to comment 10-6.

326-4: See response to comment 311-5.

326-5: See response to comment 215-5.

326-6: The cumulative effect of new rights-of-way developments (in designated utility corridors) on bighorn sheep migration will be included as part of the RMP implementation and monitoring plan described in *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2).

326-7: We recognize the deficiencies in the "apparent trend in rangeland condition" concept. At present, this is the most accurate information we have for making range management decisions. "Apparent trend" is BLM's best professional estimate of range trend. The lack of valid and reliable data is a primary reason that we have chosen not to change the present stocking rate in allotments. The 1980-81 range condition inventory is presently being augmented by more recent survey data through on-going monitoring studies in order to provide a more accurate estimate of trend. These monitoring studies will be used to determine future range management adjustments that may be necessary to meet the overall RMP objectives (see *Rangeland Monitoring* section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives*).

326-8: While they are available to some extent, data on the amount of fishing, boating and hunting use in the Yuma District are not necessary for the comparison of impacts from alternatives in the recreation issue, or for the level of management decisions being made in the RMP. The data currently included in Chapter 3 of the RMP are considered adequate for these needs.

326-9: The text has been revised to reflect (the possibility of competition between livestock and mule deer for seasonal forage. However, we do not believe that the competition or impacts would be significant. Both deer and livestock occupy a large area in such a low density that there is sufficient forage and space to distribute the competition to such a degree that it is minimal. Moreover, in accordance with 43 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 4110.3-1, BLM can permit additional livestock grazing to utilize seasonal forage only when such use would be consistent with other multiple use management objectives.

326-10: The sentence on bighorn sheep use of the Bill Williams River has been deleted.

326-11: The text has been revised to reflect the correct status of this species.

326-12: The text has been revised to read: "Migratory and upland game birds....."

326-13: The Bill Williams River has been added to this section.

326-14: Recreation expenditures as reflected by sales receipts for selected retail trade and service sectors have been used to indicate economic importance and impact in the RMP-EIS. User day values are another means for accomplishing the same thing.

326-15: The text has been revised to reflect the correct status of this species.

326-16: The *Preferred Alternative* does not establish an increase of 3,756 AUMs as a goal. The statement in Chapter 4 reflects the projected impact on overall forage production from implementation of the proposed grazing management. As such, there is no contradiction between this statement and objectives established in the Buckskin Mountains-Cactus Plain HMP. Any future adjustments in livestock grazing use — increases or decreases in stocking rates — will be made based on monitoring studies and consideration of management objectives for other resources and uses.

326-17: Designation of Cactus Plain as a special management area or wilderness would not affect the total grazing capacity (AUMS) in terms of forage production on the Ganado and Nine-Mile allotments. The projected overall increase in AUM production for these two allotments was based on professional estimates by BLM range specialists.

326-18: The Bureau of Land Management has no management authority on the Colorado River, and is unable to regulate recreation use on the water.

Furthermore, in many places, including the Parker Strip, the BLM does not manage enough of the shoreline to effectively regulate access to the Colorado River.

Water safety issues are certainly a matter of concern for the BLM as well as other governmental agencies. While the BLM can restrict water access developments such as boat-ramps in its recreation concession areas, the real need is for a coordinated approach to regulating all recreational use of the lower Colorado River. Although we coordinated closely with other land and water managing agencies in developing this RMP, decisions regarding implementation of a coordinated approach to Colorado River management is beyond the scope of the plan.

326-19: The La Posa Plain has had grazing use for many years. The Lower Gila South Inventory (1980-81) indicated that this area is generally in excellent condition with a static trend; this does not indicate a negative effect on the vegetative community. The *Preferred Alternative* does not propose an initial increase in livestock numbers, but its implementation would result in increased forage production overall as projected in Chapter 4.

326-20: The description on page 98 of the draft EIS of impacts on wildlife from grazing was in error and has been revised in the final.

326-21: *Appendix E* has been revised.

343-1: No attempt has been made to allocate a percentage of available forage to wildlife in the RMP. However, the impacts on wildlife were considered in developing and selecting a *Preferred Alternative*. Monitoring, as described in the *Range Program* section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2), would determine the accuracy of impact projections made in this EIS. Adjustments to grazing systems and preference would be made where necessary, based on the results of monitoring.

Projected forage production under each of the alternatives is discussed as part of the impacts analysis in Chapter 4 of the RMP-EIS. Typical grazing systems that would be applied to allotments are described in Appendix G-7.

343-2: The *Disposals* section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2) has been revised to include "riparian habitat" as a condition which would preclude transferring lands within a disposal area from Federal ownership. In addition, Area 9 has been deleted from the list of areas identified for disposal under the *Preferred Alternative*.

A1-1: See response to comment 52-1.

A2-1: See response to comment 52-1.

A9-1: The BLM estimate may be conservative, but this estimate does not significantly affect the conclusions drawn about the economic impacts from implementation of the various recreation alternatives.

A10-1: See response to comment 213-1.

B29-1: See response to comment 146-1.

C1-1: Areas referenced in this comment appear to be included in the proposed expansion of the Kofa National Wildlife Refuge. If this is the case, none of the issues addressed in the Yuma District RMP would affect the continued multiple use of these lands.

C2-1: See response to comment 228-3.

C3-1: Mineral potential has been documented in the Yuma District RMP only to the extent necessary for assessing impacts and losses of resource values that would result from proposed management actions.

C11-1: See response to comment 96-1.

C12-1: See response to comment 96-1.

C14-1: See response to comment 219-3.

C14-2: See response to comment 228-7.

C14-3: As indicated in *Impacts on Vegetation* from the *Preferred Alternative*, the adverse impacts on candidate T&E cacti from concentrating long-term camping in LTVAs would be offset by the overall benefit to these and other sensitive plant species from prohibiting long-term camping elsewhere in the Yuma District.

C14-4: The *Preferred Alternative* proposes to manage all remaining riparian areas along the Colorado River as priority wildlife habitat areas. Management for this use would prohibit encroachment on and degradation of riparian habitat from recreation development. In addition, the *Preferred Alternative* states under *Management of Concessions and Leases* that proposed recreation developments which have potential to adversely impact natural values would either not be allowed or effects would be mitigated.

The *Preferred Alternative* also states that the expansion of recreation areas along the Colorado River would be contingent upon demonstrating feasibility and need for the project through economic, market and environmental analyses (see *Issue 6: Recreation - General*). Expansion would be further constrained by restricting recreation development within the floodplain (see *Recreation Management in Floodplains*), and by managing remaining riparian areas along the river as priority wildlife habitat areas (see *Riparian Areas*).

C14-5: See response to comment 10-10.

C14-6: The Land Ownership Adjustments map (Map 9) depicts areas in which BLM-administered lands would be available for disposal. Some of these areas include a variety of land ownership and administration. Map 9 should be used in conjunction with Map 6 (Land Status) in order to determine the extent and location of BLM-administered lands in each of the disposal areas.

C14-7: See response to comment 215-15.

C16-1: See response to comment 187-1.

D3-1: Since wilderness has been eliminated as a planning issue in this final EIS, none of the management actions under the *Preferred Alternative* would result in the withdrawal of additional acreage in the Yuma District from mineral entry. The 5,280-acre Big Marias area is presently under Bureau of Reclamation withdrawal.

D3-2: See response to comment 202-1.

D3-3: See response to comment 265-5.

D4-1: We recognize both the shortage of facilities and the environmental impacts resulting from wood collection in the La Posa area. These as well as other issues are currently addressed in an area-specific or activity plan for the La Posa LTVA.

The *Preferred Alternative* provides the option for BLM to provide additional facilities, expand recreation sites and designate specific wood non-collection areas. The specific details will be left to activity plans, as stated under the *Recreation Program* section of *Management Guidance Common to All Alternatives* (Chapter 2).

Following approval of the RMP, activity plans will be prepared for the Long-Term Visitor Areas as well as other special use areas in the district to ensure consistency with RMP decisions and objectives. The activity plans for LTVAs will address both sanitation and wood collection.

D5-1: All remaining riparian areas administered by BLM are included in the 23,100 acres that would be managed as priority wildlife habitat under the *Preferred Alternative*. Please note that the acreage was 25,000 acres in the draft EIS, but is changed in the final to take into account the Cocopah land transfer passed by Congress after the draft was published.

APPENDIX A

THE PLANNING PROCESS

Appendix A is divided into two parts: A-1 describes the nine planning actions in BLM's RMP-EIS process and A-2 lists the planning criteria that were developed and used by Yuma District for completing the draft plan.

A-1: Actions in the RMP-EIS Process

The planning process described in BLM planning regulations 43 CFR part 1600 consists of nine actions summarized below. Yuma District has completed the first seven actions.

ACTION 1: Identification of Issues

Identification of the significant issues determined the scope of the plan. The general public, Indian tribes, and state, local and other federal agencies were asked to identify public land management issues in the Yuma District. Public meetings were held in Parker, Bullhead City, and Lake Havasu City, Arizona, In January 1982 and in Yuma, Arizona, and Blythe, California, in May 1983. BLM specialist added management concerns that were not identified by these groups. The seven planning issues for the Yuma District are described in Chapter 1.

ACTION 2: Development of Planning Criteria

Planning criteria were developed to identify the considerations and constraints that would be applied to the planning process. Criteria helped to determine the kinds of alternatives to be developed and the factors to be considered in evaluating alternatives and selecting a preferred alternative. Yuma District's planning criteria were distributed to the public in August 1983 for review and comment.

ACTION 3: Inventory Data and Information Collection

Resource specialists reviewed and compiled base data from existing and updated inventories of environmental, social, economic, and institutional characteristics in the planning area. This information was used to develop the resource descriptions and environmental analyses contained in Chapters 3 and 4 of this draft environmental impact statement. Existing BLM plans were also reviewed to utilize recommendations, decision and directives that would apply to all resource activities.

ACTION 4: Management Situation Analysis

The issue-related data collected in Action 3 was compiled in one document called the Management Situation Analysis (MSA). The MSA describes how issue-related land uses are currently managed in the district, existing problems and the capability of the various resources to respond to the identified issues and concerns. It also describes the resources that would be affected by the decisions, how these resources are currently managed and lists possible options for managing the resources. The MSA was used in developing Chapters 2, 3 and 4 of the draft EIS. This document is on file at the BLM Havasu Resource Area and Yuma District Offices and is available for public review.

ACTION 5: Formulation of Alternatives

Five complete and reasonable alternatives for resolving the RMP issues were prepared by the planning team. A "no action" alternative was prepared in addition to several alternative plans placing emphasis either on environmental protection, resource production or balanced resource use. The alternatives were reviewed by the public and by BLM specialists prior to incorporation in this draft EIS.

ACTION 6: Estimation of Effects of the Alternatives

The physical, biological, economic and social effects of implementing each alternative were estimated in order to allow for a comparative evaluation of impacts. Chapter 4 (Environmental Consequences) describes these impacts.

ACTION 7: Selection of a Preferred Alternative

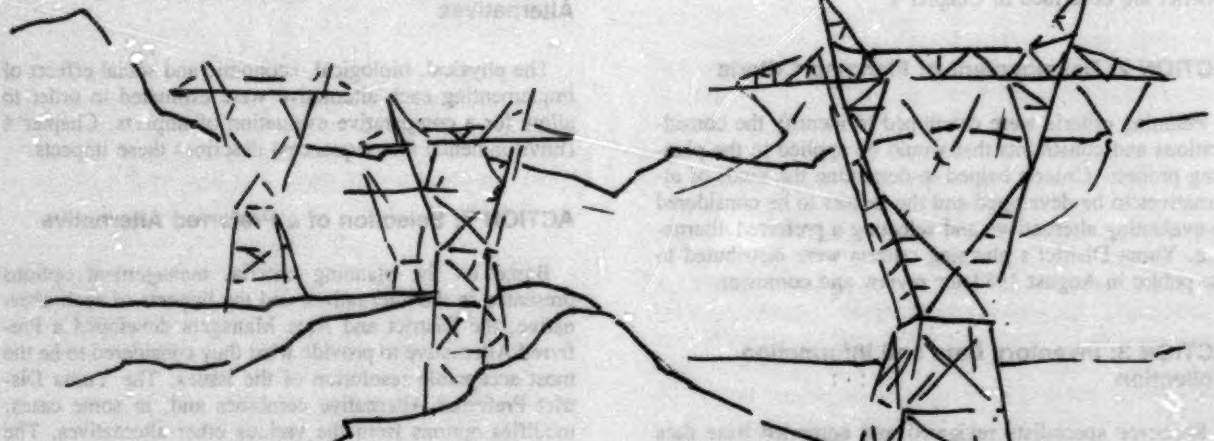
Based on the planning criteria, management options' presented in the alternatives and the impacts of each alternative, the District and Area Managers developed a Preferred Alternative to provide what they considered to be the most acceptable resolution of the issues. The Yuma District Preferred Alternative combines and, in some cases, modifies options from the various other alternatives. The Preferred Alternative and the analysis of its impacts are released in the form of a draft environment impact statement for public review and comment together with the description and analysis of the other alternatives. Yuma District is currently at this stage of the process. Public review may result in new information being presented, problems being pointed out in BLM's Preferred Alternative, or other alternatives being suggested.

ACTION 8: Selection of the Resource Management Plan

The District and Area Managers will examine the public comments that are received and select and recommend a proposed resource management plan to the BLM State Director. The State Director will then publish the final RMP-EIS. After a thirty-day appeal period and resolution of any appeals on the final EIS, the RMP is approved by the State Director.

ACTION 9: Monitoring and Evaluation

Implementation of the plan will be monitored to ensure effective resolution of the planning issues and achievement of the desired results. Intervals and standards for monitoring will be established in the final RMP or Record-of-Decision and monitoring will continue from the time the RMP is adopted until changing conditions require a revision of the plan. As changes are required, the RMP will be amended or revised using an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement, public involvement, and interagency coordination as required by federal regulations 43 CFR 1600. Monitoring and evaluation reports will be available for public review.



Appendix A-2: Planning Criteria for the Yuma District RMP-EIS

PLANNING ISSUE	CRITERIA FOR DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVES	CRITERIA FOR ESTIMATING THE EFFECTS OF ALTERNATIVES	CRITERIA FOR SELECTING THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE
GENERAL CRITERIA (APPLICABLE TO ALL ISSUES)	The alternatives for individual planning issues may include: differing management actions and intensities, differing land areas, locations, or boundaries, differing levels of public investment, application of special conditions or stipulations, allowable resource uses. The alternatives should: provide a multiple-use and sustained yield management framework for the full variety of resources that occur in the Yuma District. Single uses or less than full multiple use of resources may be applied on some lands due to the nature and value of the resources or uses involved, be as consistent as possible with the officially adopted resource management plans, programs, or policies of other Federal, State or local government agencies, and Indian tribes. be technically feasible, and cost efficient.	Evaluate the economic and social impacts of alternatives. Analyze the impacts on natural, Native American, and mineral and energy values Assess the impacts on the uses and values of adjacent non-Federal lands. Evaluate accumulative impacts. Estimate probable ranges of impacts where effects cannot be precisely determined.	The preferred alternative should: be cost effective, resolve planning issues while achieving management objectives, comply with the Endangered Species Act, reflect public needs and opinions, Comply with federal and state laws, be as consistent as possible with plans of other agencies.
1. WILDLIFE HABITAT	Alternatives for Wildlife Habitat may include: conservation of federal or state listed threatened, endangered (T&E), or sensitive species, protection of critical habitats for listed species, identification and protection of key wildlife habitat areas from disruption.	Evaluate impacts on rangeland and burros. Consider the degree to which T&E sensitive and game species habitat is maintained or improved.	See General Criteria

APPENDIX A-2: PLANNING CRITERIA FOR THE YUMA DISTRICT RMP-EIS (Cont.)

PLANNING ISSUE	CRITERIA FOR DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVES	CRITERIA FOR ESTIMATING THE EFFECTS OF ALTERNATIVES	CRITERIA FOR SELECTING THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE
2. SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREAS	Alternatives for Special Management areas may involve: a variety of uses, as long as they are consistent with the purpose of protecting important environmental resources, special designation to impose special management in an area having important environmental resources.	Consider the degree to which the scientific and educational values of the important environmental resource will be maintained or enhanced.	See General Criteria.
3. GRAZING	Alternatives for Grazing may include: categorization of allotments based on the dominant management need, range condition, and potential, consideraion of ephemeral vs. perennial classification for existing allotments, different levels of livestock use. mixes of uses including modification or cancellation of a grazing lease or permit.	Evaluate impacts on present range condition and production capacity for livestock, wildlife, and burros. Evaluate impacts on soil and watershed conditions.	See General Criteria.
4. LAND OWNERSHIP ADJUSTMENT	Alternatives for Lands may involve the inclusion of terms or conditions necessary to ensure proper land use and protection of the public interest.	See General Criteria.	Parcels of public land identified for disposal must be: difficult or uneconomic for the federal government to manage. no longer required for the purpose for which they were acquired or other federal purposes. Their disposal will serve important public objectives.
5. RIGHTS-OF-WAY	Alternatives for Rights-of-Way will focus upon utility and communication site corridor locations and boundaries.	Assess physical effects and constraints on corridor placement or rights-of-way placed therein due to geology, soil, or land forms. Evaluate the economic efficiency of placing a right-of-way within a corridor. Assess the engineering and technological compatibility of proposed and existing facilities.	Public land exchanges must: involve lands in the same state, benefit federal resource management programs. the preferred alternative should mimimize adverse economic, environmental and enginering impacts and the proliferation of separate utility and communication site rights-of-way on public lands in the district.

APPENDIX A-2: PLANNING CRITERIA FOR THE YUMA DISTRICT RMP-EIS (Cont.)

PLANNING ISSUE	CRITERIA FOR DEVELOPING ALTERNATIVES	CRITERIA FOR ESTIMATING THE EFFECTS OF ALTERNATIVES	CRITERIA FOR SELECTING THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE
6. RECREATION	Alternatives for Recreation will include: designating public lands as either open, limited, or closed to off-road vehicles for the purpose of resolving management problems (43 CFR 8342.1), ensuring the continued availability of outdoor recreation opportunities which the public seeks and which are not readily available from other public or private entities, establishing management strategies to reduce or eliminate recreation-related resources degradation, meeting the legal requirements for visitor health and safety by providing essential services and supervision, mitigating significant resource user conflicts involving recreation where possible. delineating those public land areas where recreation facilities (e.g., campground, picnic sites, sanitation facilities, trails, and information displays) will be provided, delineating public land areas where long-term winter occupancy will be allowed, establishing a maximum camping time period (e.g., "length-of-stay") for developed camping facilities and undeveloped areas.	See General Criteria.	The Preferred alternative must: provide dispersed and resource dependent types of outdoor recreation with cost-effective use of public lands, provide recreation opportunities not available from other public or private entities, reduce or eliminate resource damage, visitor health and safety problems, and significant resource user conflicts involving recreation.

SOURCE: BLM, Yuma District 1984.

APPENDIX B

WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS IN YUMA DISTRICT

Table B-1 below lists WSAs in the Yuma District, WSA acreage studied in the draft RMP-EIS and WSA acreage now. See *Issue 7: Wilderness* for a full explanation of how BLM will address the Yuma District WSAs.

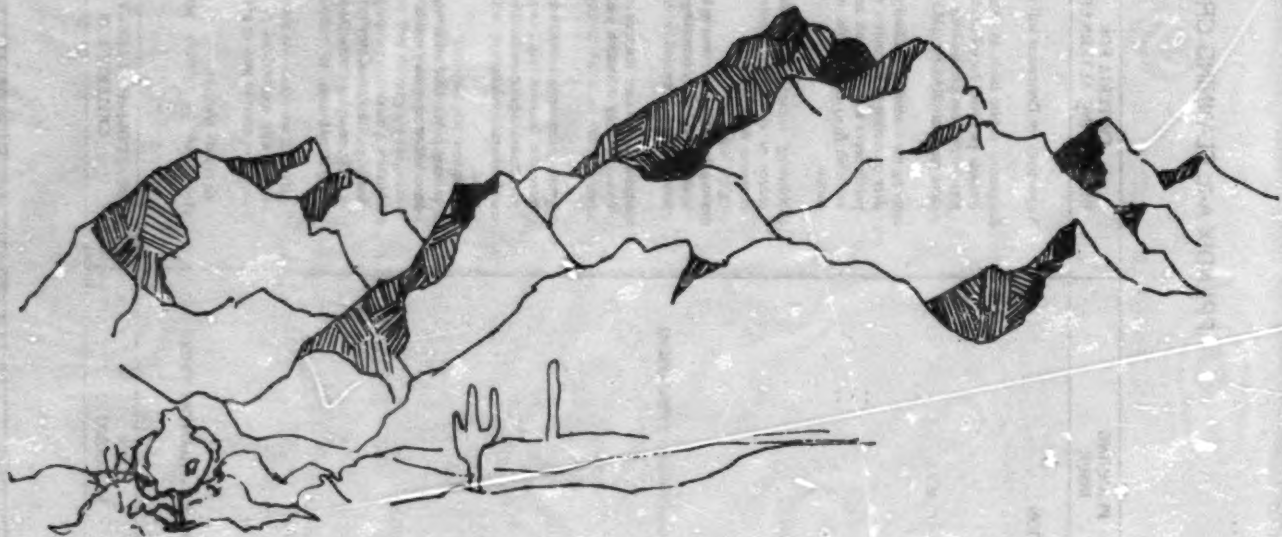


TABLE B-1: WILDERNESS STUDY AREAS
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Wilderness Study Area Number	 Name	Acreage	Acreage Studied in Draft RMP-EIS
5-1	Dead Mountains Northern Addition	1,815	1,815
5-2	Dead Mountains Southern Addition	630	630
5-3	Chemehuevi Mountains Addition	195	195
5-4	Chemehuevi/Needles Addition	960	960
5-5B	Needles Eastern Addition	465	*
5-7B	Crossman Peak	38,630[a]	22,915
5-7C[b]	Mohave Wash	104,605	*
5-10	Whipple Mountains Addition	1,380	1,380
5-12	Gibraltar Mountain	25,260[a]	7,870
5-13	Planet Peak	17,645	*
5-14A/B	Cactus Plain	70,360	70,360
5-15A	Swansea	41,690[a]	19,370
5-17	East Cactus Plain	13,735	13,735
5-18	Big Maria Mountains Northern Addition	415	415
5-19	Big Maria Mountains Southern Addition	1,420	1,420
5-23A	South Trigo Mountains	4,500	4,500
5-23B	Trigo Mountains	36,870	36,870
5-31	Kofa Unit 3 Southern Addition	3,400	3,400
5-33	Kofa Unit 4 Northern Addition	1,900	1,900
5-34	Kofa Unit 4 Southern Addition	11,220	*
5-35	Little Picacho Peak Addition	2,915	2,915
5-53A	Muggins Mountains	14,455	14,455
	TOTAL	394,465	205,105

*WSA not studied in draft RMP-EIS due to 1982 Secretarial decision to drop areas from wilderness review.

[a] Part of this WSA not studied in draft RMP-EIS due to 1982 Secretarial decision.

[b] The full number for this WSA is 5-7C/5-48/2-52.

Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1985.

APPENDIX C

SUMMARY OF COLORADO RIVER FLOODPLAINS-RELATED PORTIONS OF YUMA RMP-EIS

Introduction

This appendix summarizes the issues that affect the proposed uses of the Lower Colorado River floodplain. Three planning issues — wildlife habitat, land ownership adjustments and recreation — are briefly stated below followed by a discussion of the alternatives and consequences of these alternatives. The evaluation of the six alternatives and the resulting decisions made in the RMP will have a major effect on how BLM would manage uses of the Lower Colorado River floodplain.

The Bureau of Reclamation (BR) is responsible for operation of the Lower Colorado River system. This includes regulation of river flows below Hoover Dam in order to provide flood protection, water storage and power generation (in priority order). It is BLM's responsibility to manage Bureau of Reclamation withdrawn and acquired lands in the Lower Colorado River floodplain in a manner consistent with BR's needs. Therefore, all of the proposed uses of public lands along the Colorado River would be consistent with BR's maximum target releases and appropriate state, federal and local floodplain legislation.

Issues - Assumptions and Conditions

1) Actions taken by BLM to maintain or improve wildlife habitat in riparian areas along the Colorado River will affect the uses made on the floodplain. Wildlife habitat improvements will generally benefit the natural floodplain values by increasing the kind and amount of plant species along the river.
2) Should BLM continue to use the Colorado River floodplain for irrigated agriculture? Approximately **40% (1,670 acres)** of the current agricultural leases and permits issued by BLM occur inside the Colorado River levee system.
3) What type of recreation use should be made in the Colorado River floodplain? Recreation management along the Colorado River has been a priority use of public lands. Table C-1 shows the existing facilities in or along portions of the Colorado River 100-year floodplain.

Floodplain Management Standards Common to All Alternatives

BLM's Floodplain Manual 7221 was published in the *Federal Register* on March 15, 1979 (44 F. R. 15786). This manual provides BLM policy, responsibilities and procedures for implementing Executive Order 11988. The Executive Order provides federal agencies with their responsibility for complying with the *National Flood Insurance Act of 1968*, the *National Environmental Policy Act of 1969* and the *Flood Disaster Protection Act of 1973*.

Any actions that would potentially affect the Colorado River operating zone will be evaluated using BLM's planning and environmental assessment process. Part of this process will include early public notification and public participation. BLM intends to comply with the standards developed by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) when evaluating new or existing development that will occur in the operating zone of the Lower Colorado River.

It is BLM's policy to provide sound and timely management of the public lands bordering the Colorado River. BLM does recognize that certain beneficial uses can be made in the base (100-year) floodplain, including day-use recreation areas, agriculture and overnight camping in some places.

BLM's goal is to provide safe, prosperous, rewarding short and long-term use of public lands bordering the Colorado River while remaining consistent with the operation requirements of the BR. When development does occur within the base floodplain, BLM's objectives will be to:

1) Reduce the risk of flood loss and property damage
2) Minimize the impact of flood loss on human health, safety and welfare
3) Restore, maintain and reserve the natural and beneficial functions of the floodplain

Floodplain Uses and Impacts By Alternative

This section summarizes the proposed uses of the base floodplain described in Chapter 2 (*Alternatives*) and 4 (*Environmental Consequences*) for all six alternatives in Yuma District's RMP-EIS.

TABLE C-1: RECREATION SITES AND FACILITIES IN THE COLORADO RIVER FLOODPLAIN
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Name of Recreation Site	Acres Within Floodplain	Number of RV Sites	Number of Campsites Developed	Number of Campsites Undeveloped	Other Facilities
CONCESSIONS					
1. Sunshine Resort	5	23*	—	22	Cabin, sheds
2. River Lodge	25	33*	—	30	Bath houses (2)
3. River Lodge Too	5	25*	—	17	Sheds, gas pumps and tanks, boat storage*, boat service*
4. Californian	**	—	—	15	----
5. Big Bend	5	—	30	—	Store, bath house, gas pumps
6. Echo Lodge	15	49	120	—	Snack shop, ski shop, bath house, gas pumps
7. River Land Resort	5	—	40	—	Boat repair shop
8. Walters Camp	5	—	—	—	Store, bait/tackle shop, gas pumps and tanks*
Subtotal	65	130	190	84	
STATE PARKS					
1. Buckskin Mountain, (AZ)	10	—	3	—	Store, sewage treatment facility, irrigation systems
2. Picacho State Recreation Area (CA)	61	—	25	—	Park Office, campfire circle
Subtotal	620	0	28	—	
CITY AND COUNTY LEASE AREAS					
1. Needles Marina	50***	188	—	—	31 mobile home sites, store/office, restrooms w/showers (2), laundry, swimming pool, storage area, check-in building, RV sewage dump station, golf course pro shop, marina w/106 slips
2. Park Moabi	10	10	21	40	Store/boat shop, employee residences (2), garage, horse corral, restrooms (3), picnic ramadas (3), irrigation system, electrical systems
3. La Paz County Park	30	—	—	—	Cabanas (4), electrical system, water system
Subtotal	90	198	21	40	
TOTAL	775	328	239	154	

* Proposed facilities.
** Area is less than one acre.
*** Area is within Colorado River Floodway (river channel during a 100-year flood).
Source: BLM, Yuma District Office files, 1983.

Preferred Alternative

With the exception of Pittsburg Point which BLM would make available for disposal (see Chapter 2, *Preferred Alternative*), recreation lands along the Colorado River would be retained in federal ownership to ensure that public opportunities for Colorado River recreation continue to be available in the future. Along the Parker Strip, only floodproofed day-use facilities would be allowed within the 100-year base floodplain. BLM's long-term intent would be to move overnight recreational use and associated development out of the base floodplain. On the rest of the Colorado River, only those permanent facilities that are floodproofed would be allowed in the

100-year floodplain. Existing permanent structures would be allowed to remain in the 100-year floodplain until they are substantially damaged by flooding, their useful life is gone, an applicable part of the lease is renegotiated or the lease expires.

About **23,100** acres of Colorado, Bill Williams and Gila River floodplain would be managed as priority riparian wildlife habitat. This would benefit natural floodplain functions by maintaining channel stability and providing areas to filter sediment.

Agricultural lands located in the Colorado River floodplain would continue to be farmed until the Central Arizona Project (CAP) begins operating or the present leases and permits expire. New leases would be issued under 43 CFR 2920 regulations for those lands having legal water rights in compliance with state water law and the Colorado River adjudication. The existing agricultural leases and permits that are not in compliance with state water law would be cancelled and managed for recreation and/or wildlife values.

Alternative A - No Action

Recreation lands on the Yuma District would be retained in federal ownership to ensure that public opportunities for Colorado River recreation would continue. All existing recreation facilities on the Colorado River floodplain would continue to be allowed. Facilities that are not already floodproofed to acceptable (NFIP) standards would be brought to standards or moved from the floodplain when the leases expire, are modified or when the development is substantially damaged by flooding.

About **23,100** acres of Colorado, Bill Williams and Gila River floodplain would be managed as priority riparian wildlife habitat. This would benefit natural floodplain functions by maintaining channel stability and providing areas to filter sediment.

Agricultural lands in the floodplain would be managed the same way as described in the *Preferred Alternative.*

Alternative B - Resource Production

Under *Alternative B,* only those new and existing permanent facilities that can be floodproofed would be allowed within the 100-year floodplain. Those facilities that are not already or cannot be floodproofed would be relocated outside of the 100-year floodplain. Additional public lands would be provided to concessions for this purpose. Additional developments would be evaluated in the NEPA process, would be consistent with the state, federal and local floodplain ordinances, and would require modification of the existing leases.

Riparian areas and wildlife habitat are not priorities under this alternative. Consequently, floodplain values would not benefit from these programs.

Agricultural lands in the floodplain would be managed in the same manner as described in the *Preferred Alternative.*

Alternative C - Balanced Resource Use, Production

Recreational management in the floodplain would be the same as described in *Alternative B.*

Approximately **23,100** acres of Colorado, Bill Williams and Gila River floodplain would be managed as priority riparian wildlife habitat. This would benefit the natural floodplain values by maintaining channel stability and providing areas for filtering sediment.

Agricutural lands in the floodplain would be managed in the same manner as described in the *Preferred Alternative.*

Alternative D - Balanced Resource Use, Protection

Under this alternative, only day-use floodproofed recreation facilities would be allowed within the 100-year floodplain. All other facilities and structures would be relocated outside the floodplain. The vacated areas would be converted for day-use recreation. These proposed changes would occur through renegotiation or expiration of leases. Moving these facilities out of the base floodplain would increase public access to the river in the long term.

Approximately **23,100** acres of Colorado, Bill Williams and Gila River floodplain would be managed as priority riparian wildlife habitat. This would benefit the natural floodplain values by maintaining channel stability and providing areas for filtering sediment.

Agricultural lands in the floodplain would be managed in the same manner as described in the *Preferred Alternative.*

Alternative E - Resource Protection

Under *Alternative E,* all existing recreation facilities would be removed from the base floodplain through cancellation or expiration of leases. All base floodplains would be managed as wildlife and riparian habitat. This action would restore floodplain values on about 65 acres. BLM would also remove its recreation facilities from the base floodplain.

Approximately **23,100** acres of Colorado, Bill Williams and Gila River floodplain would be managed as priority riparian wildlife habitat. This would benefit the natural floodplain values by maintaining channel stability and providing areas for filtering sediment.

All leases and permits on agricultural lands **(1,670 acres)** located in the base floodplain would be terminated when the leases expire. The lands would be managed for wildlife habitat.

APPENDIX D

AGRICULTURAL PERMITS AND LEASES IN YUMA DISTRICT

TABLE D-1: AGRICULTURAL PERMITS
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Name	Permits Serial No.	Location	Water Use (land acres) and Source: None	Colorado River	Wells	I.D.*	BLM-Administered Lands Under Permit or Lease (Acres): Total	Inside Floodplain	Outside Levee
[a]Beals	1A-26(A)	Sec. 11; T. 11 S., R. 25 W.	–	–	–	33 (YCWUA)	33.0	33.0	–
[a]Musgrove	1A-29(A)	Sec. 11; T. 11 S., R. 25 W.	–	–	–	10 (YCWUA)	10.0	–	10.0
[a]Donley	1A-28(A)	Sec. 30; T. 9 S., R. 24 W.	–	–	–	11 (YCWUA)	11.0	11.0	–
[a]Donley	1A-27(A)	Sec. 8; T. 9 S., R. 24 W.	–	–	–	5 (YCWUA)	5.0	5.0	–
[a]Wohlford	1A-30(A)	Sec. 28; T. 8 S., R. 24 W.	–	–	–	1.1 (YCWUA)	1.1	–	1.1
[a]Hulsey	1A-22(A)	Sec. 2, 3. 10, 11; T. 11 S., R. 25 W.		–	82.8	–	82.8	82.8	–
[a]Quon	1A-23(A)	Sec. 2,11; T. 11 S., R. 25 W.	–	–	148.7	–	148.7	148.7	–
[a]Hughes	1A-7(A)	Sec. 3; T. 11 S., R. 25 W.	–	–	88.5	–	88.5	88.5	–
[a]Brown	1A-6(A)	Sec. 2 & 3; T. 11 S., R. 25 W.	–	–	130.0	–	130.0	130.0	–
[a]Bethune	1A-1(A)	Sec. 23; T. 10 S., R. 25 W.	–	–	50.0	–	50.0	50.0	–
[a]Cuming Bros.	1A-17(A)	Sec. 23; T. 10 S., R. 25 W.	–	57.5	–	–	57.5	57.5	–
[a]Beck (Estate of)	1A-2(A)	Sec. 14, 23; T. 10 S., R. 25 W.	–	14.0	–	–	14.0	14.0	–
[a]Sibley	1A-4(A)	Sec. 2, 11; T. 10 S., R. 25 W.	–	–	177.5	–	177.5	177.5	–
[a]Sibley	1A-8(A)	Sec. 14; T. 10 S., R. 25 W.	–	68.0	–	–	68.0	68.0	–
[a]Jessen	1A-3(A)	Sec. 32, 33; T. 8 S., R. 24 W.		6.5	–	–	6.5	6.5	–
[c]Youmans	2A-10(A)	Sec. 19; T. 8 S., R. 22 W.	65	–	–	–	65.0	65.0	–
Harrison	2A-22(A)	Sec. 14 & 15 T. 7 S., R. 22 W.		–	–	33 (NVID)	33.0	33.0	–
[b]Pratt	3AC-1(A)	Sec. 14; T. 7 S., R. 22 W.	–	–	75.0	–	75.0	75.0	–
[a,d]Barkley	1A-18(A)	Sec. 34, 35; T. 10 S., R. 25 W.	–	–	34.0	–	34.0	34.0	–
Crews		Sec. 2; T. 10 S., R. 25 W.	–	–	–	11 (CID)	11.0	–	11.0

TABLE D-1: AGRICULTURAL PERMITS (Cont'd)

Permits Name	Serial No.	Location	Water Use (land acres) and Source None	Colorado River	Wells	I.D.*	BLM-Administered Lands Under Permit or Lease (Acres) Total	Inside Floodplain	Outside Levee
[d]Curtis	1A-15(A)	Sec. 29; T. 16 S., R. 22 W.	-	27.0	-	-	27.0	27.0	-
[d]Ogram	2A-2(A)	Sec. 24; T. 8 S., R. 23 W.	-	-	31.0	13 (SGVID)	44.0	31.0	13.0
[d]Church	2A-5(A)	Sec. 19; T. 8 S., R. 22 W.	-	-	-	24 (NGVID)	24.0	24.0	-
[c]Oldham	4A-41(A-C)	Sec. 7;	-	-	-	-	2.5	-	2.5
[c]Aitken	7A-17(A)	Sec. 19; T. 17 N., R. 21 W.	50	-	-	-	50.0	50.0	-
Chesney	7A-16(A)	Sec. 19; T. 17 N., R. 21 W.	9	86.0	-	-	95.0	95.0	-
Stanfield	4C-10(A)	Sec. 33; T. 8 S., R. 22 E.	-	-	-	40	40.0	40.0	-
Baker	4C-14(A)	Sec. 12; T. 9 S., R. 21 E.	50	-	-	129	179.0	179.0	-
Ehlers	4C-8(A)	Sec. 34, 35; T. 2 N., R. 23 W.	7	-	-	254	261.0	-	261.0
Schindler		Sec. 24; T. 8 S., R. 22 W.	2	-	-	77	79.32	-	79.32
Rothenberger	4C-7(A)	Sec. 34, 35; T. 2 N., R. 23 W.	3	-	-	81	84.0	-	84.0
TOTAL PERMITS							1,987.42	1,525.5	461.92

a - Located in Arizona south of Morelos Dam.
b - Currently have no legal source of water for irrigating lands.
c - Operation/use on this permit does not require water.
d - Unauthorized agricultural use of BLM-administered lands, i.e., no lease or permit agreement exists on these lands.
*I.D. refers to Irrigation Districts (i.e. Yuma County Water Users Association (YCWUA), North Gila Valley (NGVID), Cibola (CID), South Gila Valley (SGVID).
Source: BLM, Yuma District Office files, 1985.

TABLE D-2: AGRICULTURAL LEASES
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Leases Name	Serial No.	Location	Lease Expiration	Water Use (land acres) and Source None	Colorado River	Wells	I.D.	BLM-Administered Lands Under Permit or Lease (Acres) Total	Inside Floodplain	Outside Levee
[a]Embry	Y-0012	Sec. 28; T. 16 S., R. 22 E.	1983	-	-	67	-	67.0	67.0	-
Hull	Y-0014C	Sec. 35; T. 8 S., R. 22 E.	1985	8.7	-	-	156	164.7	-	164.7
Desert Ginning Co.	Y-0121C	Sec. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10 T. 9 S., R. 22 R.	1988	6.0	-	-	896	902.0	50.0	852.0
Beaver Bros.	Y-0122C	Sec, 4, 5, 8, 9; T. 9 S., R. 22 E.	1989	185.0	-	-	675	860.0	30.0	830.0
Japatul, Inc.	Y-0328C	Sec. 25; T. 9 S., R. 21 E.		-	-	-	224.8	224.8	-	224.8
TOTAL LEASES								2218.5	147.0	2071.5
GRAND TOTAL (Permits and Leases)								4205.92	1672.51	2533.42

[a]Currently have no legal source of water for irrigating lands.

APPENDIX E

FEDERAL AND STATE LISTED WILDLIFE SPECIES IN THE YUMA DISTRICT

SPECIES	LISTING STATUS	ABUNDANCE
	Mammals	
SPOTTED BAT *(Euderma maculata)*	Arizona State: Not included California State: Not included Federal: Candidate, Category 2	Rare
RIVER OTTER *(Lutra canadensis)*	Arizona State: Group II (Endangered) California State: Not included Federal: Not included	Probably Extinct in Yuma District
DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP *(Ovis canadensis mexicana and O.c. nelsoni)*	Arizona State: Group III (Threatened) California State: Not included	Locally common
YUMA PUMA *(Felis concolor browni)*	Arizona State: Not included California State: Not included Federal: Candidate, Category 2	Rare
	Birds	
GREAT EGRET *(Casmerodius albus)*	Arizona State: Group IV California State: Not included Federal: Not included	Uncommon
CALIFORNIA YELLOW-BILLED CUCKOO *(Coccyzus americanus occidentalis)*	Arizona State: Not included California State: Rare Federal: Candidate, Category 2	Uncommon
SNOWY EGRET *(Egretta thula)*	Arizona State: Group IV California State: Not included Federal: Not included	Uncommon
PEREGRINE FALCON *(Falco peregrinus)*	Arizona State: Group III (Threatened) California State: Endangered Federal: Endangered	Rare
BALD EAGLE *(Haliaeetus leucocphalus)*	Arizona State: Group II (Endangered) California State: Endangered Federal: Endangered	Rare
CALIFORNIA BLACK RAIL *(Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus)*	Arizona State: Group II (Endangered) California State: Rare Federal: Candidate, Category 2	Uncommon
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON *(Nycticorax nycticorax)*	Arizona State: Group IV California State: Not included Federal: Not included	Uncommon
OSPREY *(Pandion haliaetus)*	Arizona State: Group III (Threatened) California State: Not included Federal: Not included	Uncommon
CALIFORNIA BROWN PELICAN *(Pelecanus occidentalis californicus)*	Arizona State: Not included California State: Endangered Federal: Endangered	Infrequent visitor
YUMA CLAPPER RAIL *(Rallus longirostris yumanensis)*	Arizona State: Group III (Threatened) California State: Rare Federal: Endangered	Locally common

CALIFORNIA LEAST TERN *(Sterna albifrons browni)*	Arizona State: Not included California State: Endangered Federal: Endangered	Accidental
MOUNTAIN PLOVER *(Charadrius montanus)*	Arizona State: Not included California State: Not included Federal: Candidate, Category 2	Rare
BELLS VIREO *(Vireo bellii)*	Arizona State: Not included California State: Endangered Federal: Candidate, Category 3	Rare
	Amphibians and Reptiles	
DESERT TORTOISE *(Gopherus agassizi)*	Arizona State: Group III (Threatened) California State: Not included Federal: Candidate, Category 2	Uncommon
GILA MONSTER *(Heloderma suspectum)*	Arizona State: Not included California State: Not included Federal: Candidate, Category 2*	Rare
FLAT-TAILED HORNED LIZARD *(Phrynosoma m'calli)*	Arizona State: Group III (Threatened) California State: Not included Federal: Candidate, Category 2	Uncommon
FRINGE-TOED LIZARD *(Uma notata rufa* *(U. scoparia)*	Arizona State: Group III (Threatened) California State: Not included Federal: Candidate, Category 2	Locally common
	Fish	
BONYTAIL CHUB *(Gila elegans)*	Arizona State: Group II (Endangered) California State: Endangered Federal: Endangered (proposed)	Probably extinct in lower Colorado River
WOUNDFIN *(Plagopterus argentissimus)*	Arizona State: Group II (Endangered) California State: Not native Federal: Endangered	Extinct in lower Colorado River
GILA TOPMINNOW *(Poeciliopsis occidentalis)*	Arizona State: Group III (Threatened) California State: Not native Federal: Endangered	Extinct in Lower Colorado River
COLORADO RIVER SQUAWFISH *(Ptychocheilus lucius)*	Arizona State: Group I (Extirpated) California State: Endangered Federal: Endangered	Extinct in lower Colorado River
RAZORBACK (HUMPBACK) SUCKER *(Xyrauchen texanus)*	Arizona State: Group III (Threatened) California State: Endangered Federal: Candidate, Category 2	Rare

Sources: *Federal Threatened and Endangered Wildlife Species List*, amended 1985; *Threatened and Unique Wildlife of Arizona*, amended 1985; *California Endangered and Rare Fish and Wildlife*, amended 1985.

APPENDIX F

ANIMAL AND PLANT SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE RMP-EIS

Plant species in Yuma District (listed in Table F-1 below) are described in Chapter 3 *(Affected Environment)* under Vegetation Resources. Animal species (listed in Table F-2) and their habitat are described in Chapter 3 under Wildlife.

Table F-1: SCIENTIFIC AND COMMON NAMES OF PLANT SPECIES IN THE YUMA DISTRICT
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME	SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
Abronia villosa	sand verbena	*Koeberlinia spinosa*	crucifixion thorn
Acacia greggii	catclaw acacia	*Krameria* spp.	ratany
Agave spp.	Agave	*Larrea tridentata*	creosotebush
Amaryllidaceae	*Amaryllis family*	*Liliaceae*	*Lily family*
Ambrosia deltoidea	burrobush	*Lupinus* spp.	lupine
Ambrosia dumosa	white bursage	*Lycium* spp.	desert thorn
Ammobroma sonorae	sandfood	*Mentzelia nitens leptocaulis*	unnamed stick leaf
Antirrhinum filipes	snapdragon	*Muhlenbergia porteri*	bush muhly
Atriplex hymenelytra	desert holly	*Nemacaulis denudata*	woolly heads
Atriplex spp.	saltbush	*Nolina bigelovii*	Nolina
Bursera microphylla	elephant tree	*Oineya tesota*	ironwood
Canotia holacantha	canotia	*Opuntia basilaris*	beavertail cactus
Carnegia gigantea	saguaro	*Opuntia* spp.	Opuntia
Cercidium floridum	blue palo verde	*Opuntia wigginsii*	Wiggins cholla
Cercidium microphyllum	foothill palo verde	*Palafoxia arida gigantea*	giant Spanish needle
Cereus greggii	night-blooming cereus	*Parkinsonia aculeata*	Jerusalem-thorn
Coleogyne ramosissima	blackbrush	*Pholisma arenarium*	scaly sandplant
Coryphantha vivipara alversonii	foxtail cactus	*Phragmites communis*	carrizo
Crassulaceae	*Orpine family*	*Pinus* spp.	pine
Cynodon dactylon	Bermuda grass	*Plantago* spp.	Indian wheat
Dalea spinosa	smoke tree	*Pluchea sericea*	arrowweed
Datura meteloides	sacred datura	*Polygonum fusiforme*	unnamed smartweed
Encelia farinosa	brittlebush	*Populus fremontii*	cottonwood
Ephedra spp.	joint fir	*Prosopis glandulosa*	mesquite
Equisetum spp.	horsetail	*Prosopis juliflora*	honey mesquite
Eriogonum spp.	buckwheat	*Prosopis pubescens*	screwbean mesquite
Eschscholtzia mexicana	California poppy	*Rhus kearneyi*	Kearney's sumac
Euphorbia platysperma	flat-seeded spurge	*Salix* spp.	willow
Euphorbia polycarpa	sandmat	*Sarcobatus vermiculatus*	greasewood
Ferocactus acanthodes acanthodes	barrel cactus	*Scirpus* spp.	bulrush
Ferocactus spp.	barrel cactus	*Sphaeralcea* spp.	globe mallow
Fouquieria splendens	ocotillo	*Stephanomeria schottii*	Schott's wire-lettuce
Helianthus niveus tephrodes	desert sunflower	*Stillingia linearifolia*	linear-leaved sand spurge
Hesperocallis undulata	desert lily	*Stipa* spp.	needle grass
Hilaria rigida	big galleta grass	*Tamarix* spp.	saltcedar
Holacantha emoryi	crucifixion thorn	*Triteleiopsis palmeri*	unnamed lily
Hymenoclea salsola	cheesebush	*Typha* spp.	cattail
Hyptis emoryi	desert lavender	*Yucca brevifolia*	Joshua tree

SOURCE: BLM 1984

Table F-2: SCIENTIFIC AND COMMON NAMES OF ANIMAL SPECIES MENTIONED IN THE RMP-EIS
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
Mammals	
Antilocapra americana	Pronghorn antelope
Euderma maculata	Spotted bat
Felis concolor browni	Yuma puma (mountain lion)
Lutra canadensis	River otter
Odocoileus hemionus	Mule deer
Ovis canadensis	Desert bighorn sheep
Sylvilagus auduboni	Desert cottontail
Birds	
Accipiter cooperii	Cooper's hawk
Accipiter striatus	Sharp-shinned hawk
Anas platyrhynchos	Mallard
Anas strepera	Gadwall
Aquila chrysaetos	Golden eagle
Branta canadensis	Canada goose
Buteo albonotatus	Zone-tailed hawk
Buteo jamaicensis	Red-tailed hawk
Buteogallus anthracinus	Black hawk
Callipepla gambelii	Gambel's quail
Casmerodius albus	Great egret
Charachius montanus	Mountain plover
Circus cyaneus	Marsh hawk
Coccyzus americanus	California yellow-billed cuckoo
Egretta thula	Snowy egret
Falco mexicanus	Prairie falcon
Falco peregrinus	Peregrine falcon
Falco sparverius	Kestrel
Haliaeetus leucocephalus	Bald eagle
Laterallus jamaicensis	California black rail
Nycticorax nycticorax	Black-crowned night heron
Oxyura jamaicensis	Ruddy duck
Pandion haliaetus	Osprey
Parabuteo unicinctus	Harris hawk
Pelecanus occidentalis	California brown pelican
Rallus longirostris	Yuma clapper rail
Sterna albifrons	California least tern
Tyrannus melancholicus	Tropical kingbird
Vireo bellii	Bell's vireo
Zenaida asiatica	White-winged dove
Zenaida macroura	Mourning dove
Amphibians and Reptiles	
Gopherus agassizi	Desert tortoise
Heloderma suspectum	Gila monster
Hyla regilla	Pacific tree frog
Phrynosoma m'calli	Flat-tailed horned lizard
Uma notata	Fringe-toed lizard
Fish	
Gila elegans	Bonytail chub
Ictalurus punctatus	Channel catfish
Lepomis macrochirus	Bluegill
Micropterus salmoides	Largemouth bass
Morone saxatilis	Striped bass
Pilodictis olivaris	Flathead catfish
Plagopterus argentissimus	Woundfin
Poeciliopsis occidentalis	Gila top minnow
Pomoxis nigromaculatus	Crappie
Ptychocheilus lucius	Colorado River squaw fish
Xyrauchen texanus	Razorback (humpback) sucker

Source: BLM, Yuma District Office files, 1984

APPENDIX G

RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

APPENDIX G-1: PERENNIAL-EPHEMERAL ALLOTMENTS IN YUMA DISTRICT
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Allotment No.	Allotment Name	Federal Acres	Resource Area	Approximate Percentage in Yuma District	Other Resource Areas Containing Portions of Allotment	Range Improvements in Yuma District Portion		Relevant Plan	Additional Comments
						Yes	No		
3059	Nine Mile*	111,815	YRA HRA	75	Lower Gila	X		Yuma District RMP	-Interim AMP -High improvement potential -Proposed for additional cattle (AUMs) -No AMP
3093	Muse*	134,526	HRA	50	Lower Gila	X		Yuma District RMP	-No use in past 15 years -No AMP -High improvement potential -No proposed reductions -Ownership being transferred -Alternative category is I
3034	Ganado*	92,250	HRA	100	NA	X		Yuma District RMP	-No AMP; interim plan in preparation -High improvement potential -No proposed reductions in AUMs
5001	Bishop	28,069	NA	X	NA	X		Yuma District RMP	-Section 15 lease -Yuma District management responsibility -No change in AUMs -No AMP -10 year lease expires 2/28/89

* Administered by Lower Gila Resource Area
Source: BLM, Phoenix District Office files, 1983.

APPENDIX G-2: EPHEMERAL ALLOTMENTS
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Allotment No.	Allotment Name	Federal Acres	Resource Area	Approximate Percentage in Yuma District	Other Resource Areas Containing Portions of Allotment	Range Improvements in Yuma District Portion		Relevant Plan
						Yes	No	
65A	Silver Creek[a]	67,154	HRA	5	Kingman		X	Cerbat/Black
68A	Thumb Butte[a]	25,458	HRA	5-10	Kingman		X	Cerbat/Black
3069	Primrose	48,486	HRA	10	Kingman		X	Lower Gila North
3067	Planet[b]	175,471	HRA	67	Kingman	X		Yuma District RMP
3088	Wells	79,024	YRA	100	NA	X		Yuma District RMP
3075	Scott	253,244	YRA	75	Lower Gila	X		Yuma District RMP
3056	Horton	28,268	YRA	100	NA	X		Yuma District RMP
0025	Crossman Peak[a]	102,970	HRA	80	Kingman	X		Yuma District RMP
0044	Havasu Heights North[a]	13,131	HRA	100	NA	X		Yuma District RMP
0045	Havasu Heights South[a]	34,536	HRA	100	NA	X		Yuma District RMP

[a] Administered by Kingman Resource Area; all other allotments administered by Lower Gila Resource Area.
[b] 91% of allotment is in public ownership. 129 head on allotment from March-May, 1983.
Source: BLM, Phoenix District Office files, 1983.

APPENDIX G-3: RANGE IMPROVEMENT SUMMARY
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Allotment Name & No.	Project No.	Job Name	Location
Nine Mile No. 3059	0424	Black Peak District Boundary Fence	T. 8/9 N., R. 19 W.
	0971	Colorado River Indian Res. Fence	T. 8 N., R. 19 W.
	1589	Nine Mile Well	SE1/4SW1/4 Sec. 34, T. 8 N., R. 19 W.
	1781	Fornes Colorado Indian Res. Boundary Fence	
	1841	Highway Junction Well	NW1/4NW1/4 Sec. 34, T. 8 N., R. 19 W.
	2118	Fornes Muse Allot Boundary Fence	
	None	Fence	T. 7/8 N., R. 19 W.
Muse No. 3093	A3-R-2201	Bruce-Muse Allotment Boundary Fence	Sec. 11, 12,, 13, 14 23, 24, 25, 26, 35, & 36, T. 9 N., R. 17 W. Gila & Salt River Baseline & Meridian, Yuma County, Arizona
	A3-R-2118	Muse-Fornes Allotment Fence	Sec. 1, 2, 11, 12, 14, 14, 23, 24, 25, 26, & 35, T. 8 N., R. 17 W.; & Sec. 2, 11, & 14, T. 7 N., R. 17 W., G&SRB&M, Yuma County, Arizona
	A3-4-2014	Dry Tank	T. 8 N., R. 16 W., Sec. 35, NE1/4SE1/4, G&SRB&M
	A3-4-1871	Earthen Reservoir	T. 9 N., R. 15 W., Sec. 20 NE1/4NW1/4, G&SRB&M
	A3-4-1869	Water Haul	T. 9 N., R. 16 W., Sec. 28, NE1/4SE1/4, G&SRB&M

APPENDIX G-3: RANGE IMPROVEMENT SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Allotment Name & No.	Project No.	Job Name	Location
	A3-4-585	Water Haul	T. 8 N., R. 15 W., Sec. 31, NE1/4SE1/4, G&SRB&M
Ganado No. 3034	None	Lamb Spring	SE1/4NW1/4, Sec. 35, T. 11 N., R. 18 W.
	None	Goat Spring	SW1/4SE1/4, Sec. 27, T. 11 N., R. 18 W.
	None	Black Mtn. Water Haul	SW1/4NE1/4, Sec. 11, T. 9 N., R. 19 W.
	0035	Bob's Well	NW1/4NW1/4, Sec. 23, T. 9 N., R. 19 W.
	0424	Black Peak District Boundary Fence	T. 9 N., R. 18 W.
	0748	Black Mtn. Well	SW1/4NE1/4, Sec. 11, T. 9 N., R. 19 W.
	0834	Natural Tank	SE1/4NE1/4, Sec. 12, T. 9 N., R. 18 W.
	1785	Bob's Well Holding Trap	NW1/4NW1/4, Sec. 17, T. 9 N., R. 18 W.
	1996	Water Haul Trough	SW1/4NE1/4, Sec. 17, T. 9 N., R. 18 W.
	4352	Black Peak Fence	T. 9 N., R. 19 W.
	4530	Nuave Corral	SW1/4NE1/4, Sec. 1, T. 9 N., R. 19 W.
	4531	Black Peak Corral	Sec. 23, T. 9 N., R. 19 W.
	4532	Red Hill Corral	SE1/4SE1/4, Sec. 6, T. 9 N., R 17 W.
	4534	Red Hill Pipeline	SE1/4SE1/4, Sec. 6, T. 9 N., R. 17 W.
	4536	Red Hill Well	NE1/4SE1/4, Sec. 6, T. 9 N., R. 17 W.

APPENDIX G-3: RANGE IMPROVEMENT SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Allotment Name & No.	Project No.	Job Name	Location
	4537	Nuave Well	SW1/4NE1/4, Sec. 1, T. 9 N., R. 19 W.
	4538	Black Peak Well	Sec. 23, T. 9 N., R. 19 W.
Louis Bishop	AZ-R-1165	Cibola Well	SE1/4SE1/4, Sec. 6, T. 1 S., R. 23 W., G&SRB&M
Silver Creek	6-C-165	Borjorques-Bullhead Fence	East and south boundary, Sec. 1 T. 20 N., R. 22 W.
		Fences	North & east section lines Sec. 30, T. 20 N., R. 22 W. and south, west, and north sides Sec. 20, T. 20 N., R. 22 W.
	227	Borjorques-Soto Brothers Boundary Fence	T. 18 N., R. 22 W.
Thumb Butte No. 68A	412	Rucker-Ft. Mohave Fence	Starting at the NW corner Sec. 6, T. 20 N., R. 21 W.; E 2-3/4 mi. to 1/4 mi. W of NE corner Sec. 4, T. 20 N., R. 21 W.
	547	Cattle guard	SE1/4SW1/4, Sec. 31, T. 21 N., R. 21 W.
Primrose No. 3069	No improvements listed for Yuma District portion		
Planet No. 3067	0099	Sec. 26 Tank	NE1/4NE1/4, Sec. 26, T. 12 N., R. 17 W.
	106	Mohave Spring & Pipeline	W1/2SW1/4, Sec. 19, T. 13 N., R. 17 W.
	117	Upper Mohave Tank	NE1/4SE1/4, Sec. 17, T. 13 N., R. 17 W.
	122	Mohave Tank	SE1/4NE1/4, Sec. 34, T. 13 N., R. 17 W.

APPENDIX G-3: RANGE IMPROVEMENT SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Allotment Name & No.	Project No.	Job Name	Location
	0426	Drilled Well & Improvement	SW1/4SW1/4, Sec. 13, T. 13 N., R. 17 W.
	1488	Well	NW1/4SW1/4, Sec. 32, T. 11 N., R. 15 W.
	2360	Mohave Well	SW1/4NW1/4, Sec. 35, T. 13 N., R. 17 W.
	4223	Railroad Car Mill	NE1/4, Sec. 35, T. 13 N., R. 17 W.
	None	Well	SW1/4SW1/4, Sec. 27, T. 11 N., R. 16 W.
	None	Upper Ranch Well	SW1/4SW1/4, Sec. 32, T. 11 N., R. 16 W.
	None	"400" Well	NW1/4NE1/4, Sec. 13, T. 13 N., R. 17 W.
Wells No. 3088		Tule Spring	NW1/4SW1/4, Sec. 32, T. 3 N., R. 20 W.
		Juanita Wells Well	SW1/4NW1/4, Sec. 11, T. 3 N., R. 22 W.
		Service Station Well	SE1/4SW1/4, Sec. 4, T. 3 N., R. 21 W.
		Gonzales Well	NE1/4NE1/4, Sec. 35, T. 4 N., R. 21 W.
		Colorado River	West Boundary
	0111	Well	NW1/4SW1/4, Sec. 9, T. 2 N., R. 22 W.
	0604	Boundary Fence	Sec. 11, 12, T. 1 N., R. 23 W.
Scott No. 3075		Sand Tanks	W1/2, Sec. 17, T. 2 N., R. 19 W.
	829	Lead Well	SW1/4NE1/4, Sec. 32, T. 5 N., R. 19 W.

APPENDIX G-3: RANGE IMPROVEMENT SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Allotment Name & No.	Project No.	Job Name	Location
	1241	Scott-Reservation Fence	Roughly N. to S. through Secs. 22, 27, 28, 33, T. 6 N., R. 20 W., and Secs. 4, 9, 16, 17, T. 5 N., R. 20 W.
	4069	Kofa Mtn. No. 3 Game Catchment	SE1/4SE1/4, Sec. 1, T. 1 N., R. 19 W.
	4069	Kofa Mtn. No. 3 Game Catchment	or SE1/4NE1/4, Sec. 25, T. 2 N., R. 19 W.
Morton No. 3056	1831	Morton Corral & Cabin	SW1/4NW1/4, Sec. 28, T. 1 S., R. 19 W.
	2131	Floy Morton Reservoir	SW1/4NW1/4, Sec. 28, T. 1 S., R. 19 W.
	4067	Kofa Game Catchment No. 1	NW1/4SE1/4, Sec. 36, T. 1 S., R. 19 W.
	4068	Kofa Mtns. Catchment No. 2	NW1/4NW1/4, Sec. 12, T. 1 S., R. 19 W.
Crossman No. 0025	0860	Jones Allotment Fence	T. 16-1/2 N., R. Peak 18 & 19 W. - Start 1/2 corner Sec. 25 & 30 thence south 6 miles to 1/4 corner Sec. 25 & 30, T. 16 N., R. 18 & 19 W.
	1009	Chemehuevi Ranch Fence	T. 16 N., R. 19 & 20 W - Start 1/4 corner Sec. 13 & 18 thence south 3-1/2 miles
	1223	James Williams Fence	4-1/4 miles west side of sections 6, 7, 18, 19, & 30, T. 15 N., R. 19 W.
	0797	Burro Canyon Drift Fence	1 mi. Sec. 4, T. 14 N., R. 18 W.
	0802	Burro Cottonwood Pipeline	7/8 mi. Sec. 4, T. 14 N., R. 18 W.

APPENDIX G-3: RANGE IMPROVEMENT SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Allotment Name & No.	Project No.	Job Name	Location
	0813	"Sec. 4" Stockwater	Trough & Corral - NE1/4NE1/4, Sec. 4, T. 14 N., R. 18 W.
	0809	Scott's Well	Well, Windmill & Storage - SW1/4NW1/4, Sec. 7, T. 14 N., R. 18 W.
	0817	Black Canyon Drift Fence	3/8 mi. - Sec. 32, T. 15 N., R. 18 W.
	0824	Blacksmith Canyon Well	Well, Pump, Storage, & Line Camp -- NW1/4 SE1/4, Sec. 32, T. 14 N., R. 19 W.
	0827	Canyon Water Drift Fence	5/8 mi. -- SW1/4, Sec. 31, T. 15 N., R. 18 W.
	0832	"Sec. 31" Corral	SE1/4SW1/4, Sec. 31, T. 15 N., R. 18 W.
	0836	Arrastra Well	Well, Windmill, & Storage -- NE1/4 SW1/4, Sec. 1, T. 14 N., R. 19 W.
	0840	Buck Mtn. Well	Well, Windmill, & Storage — NW1/4 NW1/4, Sec. 8, T. 15 N., R. 18 W.
	0843	"Sec. 25 & 26 Pasture Fence"	1-1/2 mi. -- Sec. 25 & 26, T. 15 N., R. 19 W.
	0845	Twp. Pasture Fence No. 1	6-1/4 mi. — E. to W., N1/2 of T. 15 N., R. 18 W.
	0852	Twp. Pasture Fence No. 2	9-1/2 mi. -- E. & S. side of T. 16 N., R. 19 W.
	0856	Twp. Pasture Fence No. 3	6 mi. N1/2, T. 16 N., R. 18 W.

APPENDIX G-3: RANGE IMPROVEMENT SUMMARY (Cont'd)

Allotment Name & No.	Project No.	Job Name	Location
	0863	"Sec. 36" Pasture Fence	1/2 mi. E. line SE1/4, Sec. 36, T. 16-1/2 N., R. 19 W.
Havasu Heights North No. 0044		Well, Fences, Corrals, House, Loading Chute	W1/2NW1/4SW1/4 and SW1/4SW1/4NW1/4 Sec. 17, and NE1/4SE1/4 Sec. 18, T. 14 N., R. 20 W.
		Joplin Well	Sec. 18, T. 14 N., R. 20 W.
		Sec. 16 Well	NE1/3NE1/4 Sec. 16, T. 14 N., R. 20 W.
Havasu Heights South No. 0045		Screwbean Spring	SW1/4NW1/4 Sec. 12, T. 13 N., R. 19 W.
		Gold Spring	SW1/4SE1/4 Sec. 8, T. 13 N., R. 18 W.

Source: BLM, Lower Gila South MSA, Phoenix District, 1983.

APPENDIX G-4

Allotment Categorization

In order to establish priorities for future grazing management, each grazing allotment in Yuma District was assigned to one of three management categories. Specific criteria were developed to evaluate the management situation for each allotment and single out those allotments that require a change in present grazing management to resolve conflicts in resource uses. The present condition of the resource, its potential to respond to management changes, the current management situation and the socio-economic feasibility of changing grazing management were all used as criteria in accordance with current BLM policy. Each allotment is placed into one of the three management categories. The management category for an allotment may be changed when resource conditions change or new data become available.

Allotments Where Change is Not Needed—Maintain (M)

These allotments are best described by one or more of the following characteristics: vegetation and watershed conditions are satisfactory; the allotment has the potential for high resource production and is producing close to its potential; there are no serious resource use conflicts; and/or the allotment's size and physical characteristics would warrant investment of public funds for range improvements and supervision.

Allotments Where Change is Needed—Improve (I)

These allotments are best described by one or more of the following characteristics: vegetation or watershed conditions are not satisfactory; the allotment's potential production is high to moderate, but it is producing below its potential; there are substantive conflicts with other resource uses; the allotment's size, physical characteristics and the anticipated benefits from changes in management would warrant investing public funds for range improvements and supervision.

Allotments Where Change is Not Feasible—Custodial (C)

These allotments are best characterized by one or more of the following: little, if any, conflict exists in resource use; overall, resource values are relatively low; the biological potential for response to different management is low; the size or potential productivity of the allotment does not warrant the expenditure of funds for supervision; or the cost of range improvements needed to change grazing management exceeds the expected benefits.

APPENDIX G-5

Methodology for Determining Ecological Rangeland Conditions and Trend

A rangeland survey was completed in 1980-81 using BLM's rangeland inventory method for mapping and the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) method for determining condition and trend.

Rangeland Condition

The ecological condition of areas within a range site was determined by comparing the present plant community to the climax plant community, as determined by the technical guide for the site. For the existing plant community, specialists counted no more than the maximum weight (or percentage of total production) shown on the guide for any species in the climax plant community.

The amount of all climax species not exceeding that shown on the guide was totaled to show the relative ecological rating or numerical evaluation of the stand. The rating will range from 0 to 100, depending on how closely the plant community resembles the climax plant community for the range site.

The following four classes were used to express the degree to which the present plant community composition reflects climax composition.

TABLE G-5: RANGE CONDITION CLASSES
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Ecological Condition Class	Percentage of Present Plant Community that is Climax for the Range Site
Excellent	76-100
Good	51- 75
Fair	26- 50
Poor	0- 25

Guides based on the weight of species in the climax plant community truly express ecological condition. A condition rating based on the percentage of composition alone may be adjusted if the total production is less than that characteristic for the condition class. For example, a rating determined by counting the percentage of each climax species may show that the existing plant community is near climax condition but that the production of these species is less than expected for near climax condition. The condition rating can then be lowered, considering current growing conditions.

Rangeland Trend Data

Rangeland trend data are needed because the present ecological rangeland condition rating alone does not show whether the plant community is improving or deteriorating in relation to its potential. Trend is a separate determination needed to assess what is happening to the plant community.

Rangeland trend is developed from data collected over a period of time. Since trend studies have not been established, BLM determined the apparent trend in order to facilitate analysis and to identify allotments needing special attention during development of management or monitoring plans. "Apparent rangeland trend" was determined for the four P-E allotments during the rangeland inventory for 1980 and 1981. The remaining 10 ephemeral allotments were not inventoried for condition and trend.

APPENDIX G-6

Typical Range Improvements

Following is a discussion of typical design features, construction practices and implementation procedures for range improvements proposed in this plan. The extent, location and timing of such actions will be based on allotment-specific management objectives adopted through the AMP process, interdisciplinary development and analysis of proposed actions, and funding.

Fences

All fences would be built to BLM manual specifications. Normally fences would be constructed to provide exterior allotment boundaries, divide allotments into pastures, protect streams, and control livestock. Most fences would be three-wire or four-strand with steel posts spaced 16½′ apart with intermediate wire stays. Existing fences that create wildlife movement problems would be modified. Proposed fence lines would usually not be bladed or scraped. Gates or cattleguards would be installed where fences cross existing roads.

Pipelines

Wherever possible, water pipelines would be buried. The trench would be excavated by a backhoe, ditchwitch or similar equipment. Rigid plastic pipe would be placed in the trench and the excavated material would be used to backfill. Most pipelines would have water tanks spaced approximately ½ mile apart.

Reservoir

Stock pond sites would be selected based on available watershed and hydrologic information. All applicable state laws and regulations would be followed.

Wells

Well sites would be selected based on geologic reports that predict the depth to reliable aquifers. All applicable state laws and regulations that apply to ground water would be observed.

APPENDIX G-7

Possible Grazing Systems

Deferred Rotation Grazing

Deferred rotation is the practice of discontinuing grazing on different parts of an allotment in succeeding years. This practice allows each pasture to rest successfully during the growing season to permit seed production, establishment of seedlings and restoration of plant vigor (Society for Range Management 1974). One or more pastures are grazed during the spring while the remaining pastures are rested. After the seeds of key species have ripened, the pastures which were rested are grazed. Deferred rotation grazing differs from rest rotation grazing in that no yearlong rest is provided.

Rest Rotation Grazing

Under a rest rotation grazing system, grazing is deferred on various parts of an allotment during succeeding years and those parts are allowed complete rest for one or more years (Society for Range Management 1974). The allotment is divided into pastures with comparable grazing capacities. Each pasture is systematically grazed and rested to provide for livestock production and other resource values and to simultaneously maintain or improve the vegetation cover. The practice provides greater protection of the soil resource against wind and water erosion.

Any of several rest rotation grazing systems may be used, depending upon the objectives for the allotment and the number of pastures.

Deferred Grazing (Switchback Grazing)

Deferred grazing is the discontinuance of livestock grazing on an area for a specified period of time during the growing season. Under this system, grazing would begin after key plants have reached an advanced stage of development in their annual growth cycle. The growing season rest provided by this system promotes plant reproduction, establishment of new plants or restoration of the vigor of old plants.

Alternate Grazing

Alternate grazing allows livestock grazing every other season, with the area being rested in the alternate year. Stoddard et al. (1975) described the system:

> Rotation grazing, or alternate grazing, involves subdividing the range into units and grazing one range unit, then another, in regular succession. The rotation system of grazing is based upon the assumption that animals in large numbers make more uniform use of the forage, and that a rest from grazing is beneficial to the plant, even though it must support greater numbers of animals in the shorter time during which it is grazed. Certainly, proper rotation grazing results in more uniform utilization. Large numbers of animals in small units are forced to spread over the entire area and to use the available forage more uniformly. Trampling is reduced because animals are held on small areas where feed is more abundant, and hence less travel is necessary.

APPENDIX G-8

Special Ephemeral Rule

Published in the *Federal Register*, Vol. 33, No. 238, Saturday, December 7, 1968 (Livestock Grazing Ephemeral Range: Arizona, California and Nevada).

In accordance with 43 CFR 4115.2-1 regarding special rules for grazing districts and pursuant to the receipt of recommendations of the State Directors for Arizona, California and Nevada and a factual showing of its necessity, a special rule for range designated as ephemeral is hereby approved.

Ephemeral (annual) ranges lie within the general southwest desert region extending primarily into southern Arizona, southern California and southern Nevada and include portions of the Mohave, Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts. The region is characterized by desert type vegetation some of which may be classed as ephemeral only. Ephemeral range does not consistently produce forage, but periodically provides annual vegetation suitable for livestock grazing. In years of abundant moisture and other favorable climatic conditions a large amount of forage may be produced. Favorable years are highly unpredictable and the season is usually short lived. Ephemeral areas fall generally below the 3,200 foot contour and below the 8-inch precipitation isoline. A minor percentage of the total plant composition is made up of desirable perennial forage plants and potential to improve range condition and produce a dependable supply of forage by applying intensive management practices is lacking.

Because of the unique characteristics of ephemeral range the following special rule shall apply as follows:

Applicable allotments or uses shall be formally designated by the District Manager as ephemeral range.

An annual application by qualified licensees or permittees is not required unless grazing use is desired. On a year-to-year basis whenever forage exists or climatic conditions indicate the probability of an ephemeral forage crop livestock grazing may be authorized upon application pursuant to any management requirements for the allotment.

Use of base property (water base) during nonforage years is not feasible or economical and no use of base properties is required except during these periods when ephemeral forage is available and livestock grazing occurs.

Therefore:

An annual application per 43 CFR 4115.2-1(c)(9), is not required unless grazing use is described.

Grazing capacity per 43CFR 4115.2-1(c)(3) may be based on a reasonable potential for forage.

Substantial use of grazing privileges per 43 CFR 4115(c)(10) is not required.

A year round operation per 43 CFR 4115.2(c)(1) is not required.

Substantial use of base property per 43 CFR 4115.2-1(c)(7) is not required.

This special rule shall immediately apply to the Phoenix, Safford and Arizona Strip Districts in Arizona, the Bakersfield District in California and the Las Vegas District in Nevada upon recommendation for adoption in that District by the respective District Advisory Board and concurrence by the State Director.

APPENDIX H

RECREATION SITES AND FACILITIES

TABLE H-1: BLM-MANAGED RECREATION SITES
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District, Arizona

Sites	Size (Acres)	Camping Units	Day Use Units	Total Visitor Capacity	Other Facilities	Visitor Days Per Year	Visitors On Peak Day
Developed Fee Sites:							
Empire Landing	20	70	50	420	Restrooms Ramadas	33,600	500
Squaw Lake	18	167	80	900	Restrooms Boat Ramps	99,000	900
Undeveloped Short-Term Camping Areas:							
Take-Off Point	40	70	N/A	245	Vault Toilets Boat Ramp	12,000	500
Oxbow	15	105	N/A	370	Vault Toilets Boat Ramp	24,700	525
Senator Wash	20	140	N/A	490	Vault Toilets Boat Ramp	95,204	2,000
Senator Wash North Shore	30	210	N/A	735	————————	15,661	1,750
Day-Use Areas:							
Section 10	420	0	500	1,750	————————	83	25
Cable Car	2	0	10	35	————————	40	6
Quail Hollow	————	————	Closed to public use	————	————————	Unknown	Unknown
Bullfrog Beach	10.5	0	32	112	Restrooms	900	90
Crossroads	40	0	10	35	Ramadas	1,300	Unknown
Bass Point	2.75	0	10	35	Fishing Access	1,300	Unknown
Patria Flats	25	————	Under Development	————	————————	1,300	Unknown
Trader Horn	100	0	70	250	————————	2,723	250
Imperial Dam Floodplain	120	0	260	920	Vault Toilets	4,000	917
TOTAL	863.25	762	1,022	6,297		291,811	7,408

Source: BLM, Yuma District Office files, 1984.

TABLE H-2: RECREATION CONCESSION LEASES*
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Concessions	Size (Acres)	Camping Units	Campground Visitor Capacity
Black Meadow Landing**	272.6	260	910
Havasu Springs**	111.3	325	11,375
Sunshine	10.3	43	150
River Lodge	59.1	94	329
Californian	9.5	64	224
Big Bend	39.0	116	400
Echo Lodge	47.0	205	718
Windmill	11.5	82	287
Rite Spot	4.8	0	0
Sportsman's	60.4	124	434
Emerald Cove	80.0	280	980
River Land	11.0	110	385
Walter's Camp	18.0	50	175
Imperial Oasis	46.1	285	998
	780.6	2,038	17,371

* No visitor-use figures for individual concessions are available. However, BLM (1983) estimates concession use to be about 850,000 visitor days per year.

** Concessions located on Lake Havasu.

Source: BLM, Yuma District Office files, 1984.

TABLE H-3: AREAS LEASED FOR STATE, COUNTY, AND CITY PARKS
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Lease Areas	Size (Acres)	Camping Units	Day Use Units	Total Visitor Capacity	Other Facilities	Visitor Days Per Year
Pittsburg Point	1,100.0	1,107	90	13,400	Motel, Restaurant Golf Course, Bar, Shops, Beach, Pool, Laundromat, Propane, Store, Boat Slips, Boat Ramp, Baitshop, Boat Fuel, Boat Repairs	800,000
Lake Havasu State Park (Other)	12,313.9	440	581	6,600	Marina, Store, Gas Pumps, Beach, Boat Launching, Boat Repairs, RV Dump Station, Propane, Restaurant, Bait Shop	323,333
Lake Havasu State Park (Total)	13,413.9	1,547	671	20,000		1,123,333
Buckskin Mountains State Park	1,676.4	115	6	577	Boat Docks; Launches; Boat Storage; Stoves Shelters	106,000
Picacho State Recreation Area	4,354.0	78	70	350	Showers; Shelters; Launches; Campfire Circle	19,671
County-Operated:						
Mohave County Park[a]	378.0	0	25	1,000	Launch; Shelters	9,166
Park Moabi Marina[a]	1,050.0	724	81	2,300	Shelters; Boat Docks; Launches Store; RV Dump	120,324
La Paz County Park[a]	545.0	3,815	175	14,000	Showers; Shelters; Launches	2,245
River Bend Recreation Area[b]	211.0	Undeveloped				Unknown
Golden Shores[b]	40.0	Community Park				Unknown
SARA Park[b]	1,082.1	Community Park				Unknown
City-Operated:[a]						
Needles Marina	55.0	263	1 Area	921	Marina; Launches	9,216
Needles Park(Jack Smith Memorial Park)	10.0	Undeveloped				1,554
TOTAL	22,815.4	6,545	734	25,948		1,131,022

[a] 50 year leases, see Chapter 3, Recreation.

[b] Recreation and Public Purposes Leases (R&PP), see Chapter 3, Recreation.

Source: BLM, Yuma District Office files, 1984.

TABLE H-4: LONG TERM VISITOR AREAS
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Areas	Size (Acres)	Undeveloped Camping Units	Total Visitor Capacity	Other Facilities	Visitor Days Per Year
La Posa	10,920	6,600	13,200	Vault Toilets; RV Holding Tank	452,172
Imperial Dam LTVA	3,260	1,995	4,000	Ramadas; Vault & Flush Toilets; Amphitheater; RV Holding Tanks; Gray Water Disposals	308,558
Total	14,180	8,595	17,200		760,730

Source: BLM, Yuma District Office files, 1984.

APPENDIX I

RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM (ROS) CLASSES

Table I-1 describes each of the six ROS classes in terms of: a) experience opportunities, b) setting opportunities, and c) activity opportunities. These descriptors provide a general overview of the opportunities included in each class, but do not describe each class in detail. Instead, the table provides a point of departure from which the planner or manager can develop more precise prescriptions encountered in field operations. The listing of activity opportunities is provided for illustrative purposes and is not an all-inclusive list of activity opportunities on the public lands.

Table I-1: RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM CLASS DESCRIPTIONS
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

Opportunity Class	Experience Opportunity	Setting Opportunity	Activity Opportunity
Primitive (P)	Opportunity for isolation from the sights and sounds of man, to feel a part of the natural environment, to have a high degree of challenge and risk and to use outdoor skills.	Area is characterized by essentially unmodified natural environment of fairly large size. Concentration of users is very low and evidence of other users is minimal. The area is managed to be essentially free from evidence of man-induced restrictions and controls. Only facilities essential for resource protection are used. No facilities for comfort or convenience of the user are provided. Spacing of groups is informal and dispersed to minimize contacts between groups. Motorized use within the area is not permitted.	Camping, hiking, climbing, enjoying scenery or natural features, nature study, photography, spelunking, hunting (big game, small game, upland birds, waterfowl), ski touring and snowshoeing, swimming, diving (skin and scuba), fishing, canoeing, sailing and river running (non-motorized craft).
Semi-Primitive Non-motorized (SPNM)	Some opportunity for isolation from the sights and sounds of man, but not as important as for primitive opportunities. Opportunity to have high degree of interaction with the natural environment, to have moderate challenge and risk, and to use outdoor skills.	Area is characterized by a predominantly unmodified natural environment of moderate to large size. Concentration of users is low, but evidence of other area users is often present. On-site controls and restrictions may be present but are subtle. Facilities are provided only for the protection of resource values and the safety of users. Formal spacing of groups may be made to disperse use and limit contacts between groups. Motorized use is not permitted.	Camping, hiking, climbing, enjoying scenery or natural features, nature study, photography, spelunking, hunting (big game, small game, upland birds, waterfowl), ski touring and snowshoeing, swimming, diving (skin and scuba), fishing, canoeing, sailing and river running (non-motorized craft).
Semi-Primitive Motorized (SPM)	Some opportunity for isolation from the sights and sounds of man, but not as important as for primitive opportunities. Opportunity to have high degree of interaction with the natural environment, to have moderate challenge and risk, and to use outdoor skills. Explicit opportunity to use motorized equipment while in the area.	Area is characterized by predominantly unmodified natural environment of moderate to large size. Concentration of users is very low, but often there is evidence of other area users present. On-site controls and restrictions may be present, but are subtle. Facilities are provided for the protection of resource values and safety of users only. Formal spacing of groups may be made to disperse use and limit contacts between groups. Motorized use is permitted.	Same as the above, plus the following: off-road vehicle use, four-wheel drive, dune buggy, dirt bike, snowmobile and power boating.
Roaded Natural (RN)	About equal opportunities for affiliation with other user groups and for isolation from sights and sounds of man. Opportunity to have a high degree of interaction with the natural environment. Challenge and risk opportunities are not very important except in specific challenging activities. Practice of outdoor skills may be important. Opportunities for both motorized and nonmotorized recreation are present.	Area is characterized by a generally natural environment with moderate evidence of the sights and sounds of man. Resource modification and use practices are evident but harmonize with the natural environment. Concentration of users is low to moderate with facilities sometimes provided for group activity. On-site controls and restrictions offer a sense of security. Rustic facilities are provided for user convenience as well as for safety and resource protection. Conventional motorized use is provided for in construction standards and design of facilities.	All activities listed previously plus the following: picnicking, rock collecting, wood gathering, auto touring, downhill skiing, snowplay, ice skating, water skiing and other water sports, hand gliding, interpretive use, rustic resorts and organized camps.

Table I-1: RECREATION OPPORTUNITY SPECTRUM CLASS DESCRIPTIONS (Cont.)

Opportunity Class	Experience Opportunity	Setting Opportunity	Activity Opportunity
Semi-Urban (also called rural) (SU)	Opportunities to experience affiliation with individuals and groups are prevalent as is the convenience of sites and opportunities. These factors are generally more important than the natural setting. Opportunities for wildland challenges, risk taking and testing of outdoor skills are unimportant, except in those activities involving challenge and risk.	Area is characterized by substantially modified natural environment. Resource modification and use practices are obvious. Signs and sounds of man are readily evident and the concentration of users is often moderate to high. A considerable number of facilities are designed for use by a large number of people. Facilities are often provided for specific activities. Developed sites, roads and trails are designed for moderate to high use. Moderate densities are provided far away from developed sites. Facilities for intensive motorized use are available.	All activities listed previously plus the following: competitive games, spectator sports, bicycling, jogging, outdoor concerts and modern resorts.
Urban (U)	Opportunities to experience affiliation with individuals and groups are prevalent as is the convenience of sites and opportunities. Experiencing the natural environment and the use of outdoor skills are largely unimportant.	Area is characterized by a highly modified environment, although the background may have natural elements. Vegetation is often exotic and manicured. Soil may be protected by surfacing. Sights and sounds of man, on-site, predominate. Large numbers of users can be expected. Modern facilities are provided for the use and convenience of a large number of people. Controls and restrictions are obvious and numerous. Facilities for high intensity motor use and parking are present with forms of mass transit often available.	All activities listed previously.

APPENDIX J

METHODOLOGY FOR EVALUATING CULTURAL RESOURCES

The BLM evaluates cultural resources according to their current and potential uses. Cultural resources can be allocated to one or more of the following five use categories (see Glossary):

1) Public use
2) Socio-cultural use
3) Management use
4) Current and potential scientific use
5) Conservation for future use

Based on existing site information, the cultural resources in Yuma District have been evaluated with respect to these categories and according to specific criteria discussed below. Any cultural resources discovered in the future will be evaluated using these same categories and criteria.

PUBLIC USE

Conditions which must be considered in allocating cultural resources to public use are site vulnerability, accessibility and public attitudes (awareness).

SOCIO-CULTURAL USE

Native American tribes (Mohave, Chemehuevi, Cocopah and Quechan) use traditional use areas for hunting and gathering, and sacred areas (mountain peaks, ceremonial dance areas and power areas) for maintaining their spiritual heritage and social continuity.

MANAGEMENT USE

Cultural resources may be used for experimental or testing purposes to obtain information to better understand the kinds and rates of site deterioration. For example, a portion of a petroglyph site may serve well to test the use of substances to stabilize an eroding surface. Such sites are often altered in this process in order to develop more effective preservation methods.

SCIENTIFIC USE

The scientific uses of a cultural resource are directly related to the information about past cultures which may be available at a site. The particular type of information which a cultural resource can contribute (i.e., its research potential) is a major factor in determining cultural resource significance and priorities for protection.

Types of scientific information which a site or area may contain are:

a) **Time Period Studies.** How old is the site, and to what historic or prehistoric period does the former culture belong?

b) **Prehistoric and Historic Group Studies.** To what historic group (Spanish, Mexican, Westward movement) or prehistoric group or culture (San Dieguito, Amargosa, Hakatayan/Patayan or Yuman) did the physical remains (sites, areas, features, artifacts) belong? What range on the geographic landscape did each group have during various historic or prehistoric periods?

c) **Cultural Lifeway Systems Information.** Cultural lifeway system studies include a wide and complex series of research potential about how people accomplished various life sustaining functions. These include such diverse information as:

-Settlement patterns—ways in which people developed shelter and habitation systems.

-Subsistence patterns—ways in which people accomplished provision for food.

-Social organization—ways in which people organized families, societies, and political systems, etc.

-Exchange systems—methods by which a people exchanged resources, including goods and services within and between tribal groups.

-Resource use systems—ways in which a people obtained and used various raw materials, plants and wildlife from the natural environment.

-Technological patterns—ways in which a people manufactured and used tools or architectural products to alter or improve life.

-Environmental studies—includes various studies about environmental setting which will broaden understanding about cultural processes, including such areas as pollen studies which reveal past relationships between plant types, environmental conditions and human use of the environment.

In addition, ethnological studies are conducted to determine how the above systems work together to produce unique cultural systems. These studies are directed toward past or present Native American use or interest in an area.

Nearly all district sites or areas contain some information, however, those sites or areas that have the potential to answer major regional research questions (See Glossary—Class 1 Inventory) are considered more important. Table J-1 shows the kinds of information various sites, features and artifacts can yield about the past.

TABLE J-1: SCIENTIFIC INFORMATION POTENTIAL
OF CULTURAL RESOURCE SITE TYPES
Bureau of Land Management, Yuma District

	Studies			Cultural Lifeway Systems Information						
Cultural Resource Types	Time Period Studies	Prehistoric Group Studies	Historic Group Studies	Settlement Patterns	Subsistence Patterns	Social Organization	Exchange Systems	Resources Use Systems	Technological Patterns	Environmental Studies
Prehistoric Sites & Features:										
Village Area	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Camp Site	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Ceremonial Area		X	X			X				
Sacred Area		X	X			X				
Petroglyphs/Pictographs	X	X			X	X	X	X		
Geoglyphs/Intaglios	X	X				X				
Quarry/Lithic Source	X	X	X		X		X	X	X	
Rock Alignment		X	X	X		X	X			
Rock Cairn		X					X			X
Roasting Pit/Hearth	X	X		X	X			X		X
Hunting Blind					X			X		X
Milling Station	X	X			X			X		
Prehistoric Artifacts:										
Lithic Tools/Flakes	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Ceramic Vessels/Shards	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
Prehistoric/Historic Sites:										
Habitation Unit	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
Midden/Trash Dump	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X
Burial/Cremation Site	X	X				X				
Trail/Road		X	X	X	X	X		X	X	
Historic Sites:										
Mine Site		X	X				X	X	X	
Mill Site			X					X	X	
Environmental Materials:										
Bone/Wood	X	X			X					X
Seeds/Pollen, etc	X	X			X		X			X

Source: BLM, Yuma District Office, 1984.

CONSERVATION FOR FUTURE USE

Cultural resources which are unique or contain information not available in other areas have high scientific value. Some sites, such as the intaglios, are rare on a national level and hold high public value. Other sites are considered excellent representative examples of a particular site type. Some sites or areas contain special values sacred to Native Americans. Where these types of scarce resources are known, the BLM considers these properties worthy of segregation from other lands or resource uses which would threaten the maintenance of their present condition. Resources meeting these criteria are considered worthy of preservation for future use.

Several characteristics about specific sites, site types and site artifacts or features influence the ability of these resources to yield information about history or prehistory. The integrity or current condition of a site or area determine how much information is available. A site which has partially been destroyed usually has relatively less value than a site where integrity or condition is intact.

Uniqueness or rarity of a site or area is also important. A site or area which is considered to be the best example in existence or the only one of its kind is far more significant than common sites. Other factors about the makeup of a particular site—including abundance, complexity and uniqueness of site features and artifacts as well as the relative size and environmental setting contribute to its overall value.

Another category which affects the relative value of all the above criteria is the level of available information. A site or topic which has had exhaustive research and is understood does not hold the same attraction as a site or topic which has not been studied. Thus, the characteristics of an area or site and the level of existing information about them determines the potential use of the cultural resource.

GLOSSARY

ACTIVITY PLAN: A more detailed and specific plan or program of actions to implement RMP decisions over some specified time period. Examples include allotment management plan, recreation area management plan and habitat management plan.

ADD-ON: Public lands with wilderness characteristics, but less than 5,000 acres in size, adjacent to other public lands designated as wilderness or being studied for designation.

ADVERSE EFFECT (Cultural Resources): Alteration of the characteristics which contribute to the use(s) determined appropriate for a cultural resource or which qualify a cultural property for the National Register to such a degree that the appropriate use(s) are diminished or precluded or the cultural property is disqualified from National Register eligibility. Criteria in the regulations of the Advisory Council (36 CFR Part 800) guide the determination of adverse effects.

ALLOCATION: The division of limited resource capabilities or supplies among the competitors for use.

ALLOTMENT: An area of land where one or more livestock operators graze their livestock. Allotments generally consist of BLM lands but many also include stateowned and private lands. An allotment may include one or more separate pastures. Livestock numbers and seasons of use are specified for each allotment.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT PLAN (AMP): A livestock grazing management plan for a specific allotment based on multiple-use resource management objectives. The AMP considers livestock grazing in relation to other uses of the range and in relation to renewable resources — watershed, vegetation and wildlife. An AMP establishes the seasons of use, the number of livestock to be permitted on the range and the rangeland developments needed.

ALLUVIAL FAN: The alluvial deposit of a stream where it issues from a gorge upon a plain or of a tributary stream at its junction with the main stream or river (see ALLUVIUM).

ALLUVIAL TERRACE Pertaining to geologic deposits, generally unconsolidated, that are laid down by a river or stream. Deposits are formed normally where the slope or gradient becomes less steep.

ALLUVIUM: Clay, silt, sand or gravel deposited by running water.

ANIMAL UNIT (AU): One mature (1,000 lb) cow or its equivalent (4 deer, 5 antelope, 5 bighorn sheep, 1.25 elk or 1 horse) based upon an average daily forage consumption of 26 pounds of dry matter per day.

ANIMAL-UNIT MONTH (AUM): The amount of forage necessary for the sustenance of one animal for one month, e.g., one deer for one month equals one deer AUM.

ANNUAL (EPHEMERAL) PLANT: A plant that completes its life cycle and dies in one year or less (Range Term Glossary Committee, 1974).

APPARENT TREND: Immediate or short-term tendency (used mainly for grazing in this RMP-EIS).

AREA OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC): An area of public land that requires special management attention in order to protect and prevent irreparable damage to important historic, cultural or scenic values, fish and wildlife resources or other natural systems or processes, or to protect life and safety from natural hazards.

AVOIDANCE: A potential adverse effect is prevented from occurring by the partial or complete redesign or relocation of a proposed land use.

BACKGROUND: The area visible from a travel route, use area or other observer position from a minimum of 3 to 5 miles to a maximum of about 15 miles (used in visual resources management).

BAJADA: Outwash slope at the base of a mountain consisting of fragments of rock.

BIGHORN SHEEP LAMBING GROUNDS: Areas where bighorn sheep usually go to give birth — usually isolated mountainous areas.

BIGHORN SHEEP YEARLONG USE AREA: An area of land a bighorn sheep population normally ranges over in pursuit of their basic life requirements: food, cover, forage and space.

BROWSE: Tender shoots, twigs and leaves of trees and shrubs fit for food for cattle; to graze.

CARRYING CAPACITY: (1. Ecology/wildlife management) — The number (or weight) of organisms of a given species and quality that can survive in a given ecosystem (without causing deterioration of that ecosystem) through the least favorable environmental conditions that occur within a stated interval of time.

(2. Recreation management) — The level and type(s) of recreational use that a natural or developed area can provide without deterioration of the quality of the recreation experience or the resource.

CATCHMENT: A structure built to collect and retain water.

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION: A category of actions which do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment and which have been found to have no such effect and for which, therefore, neither an environmental assessment nor an environmental impact statement is required. An agency may decide in its procedures or otherwise, to prepare environmental assessments even though it is not required to do so. Any procedures under this section shall provide for extraordinary circumstances in which a normally excluded action may have a significant environmental effect.

CHANNEL: An open conduit, either naturally or artificially created, which periodically or continuously contains moving water or forms a connecting link between two bodies of water.

CHANNEL STABILITY: A relative term describing erosion or movement of the channel walls or bottom due to overflow.

CHERRY-STEMMED ROAD: A road that enters but does not pass completely through a wilderness study area.

CLIMAX: The final stage of plant succession that continues to occupy an area as long as climatic or soil conditions remain unchanged and no major disturbances occur.

CLIMAX COMMUNITY: Highest ecological development of a community on a given site determined primarily by climate but also influenced by soil, topographic, vegetative, fire and animal factors.

CLOSED DESIGNATION: Areas and trails where the use of motor vehicles is permanently or temporarily prohibited.

COMMUNITY: A group of plants and animals living together in a common area and having close interactions.

CONSERVATION FOR FUTURE USE: A cultural resource will be separated and protected from other non-compatible land uses and preserved in place because a) that particular site type is scarce or unique, b) its information potential cannot be realized through available archaeological methods or c) it represents an outstanding example of a particular site type.

CONTRAST: The effect of a striking difference in the form, line, color or texture of the landscape features within the area being viewed (used in visual resources management).

COVER, TOTAL VEGETATIVE: Percentage of ground area covered by live aerial parts of plants and mulch.

CRITICAL RANGE: Range on which a species depends for survival; there are no alternative ranges available due to climatic conditions or other limiting factors. Also called key range or crucial range.

CRITICAL WILDLIFE HABITAT: The area of land, water and airspace required for the normal needs and survival of an endangered species.

CULTURAL PROPERTY: Any definite location of past human activity, habitation or use identified through a field inventory (see below), historical documentation or oral evidence. This term may include a) archaeological or historic sites, structures and places and b) sites or places of traditional cultural or religious importance to a specific group, whether or not represented by physical remains. Cultural properties are managed by the system of inventory evaluation and protection and use (see *Appendix J*).

CULTURAL RESOURCES: Those fragile and non-renewable remains of human activity, occupation or use reflected in sites, structures, buildings, objects, artifacts, ruins, works of art, architecture and natural features that were of importance in human events. These resources consist of 1) physical remains, 2) areas where significant human events occurred — even though evidence of the event no longer remains and 3) the environment immediately surrounding the resource.

CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY: A descriptive listing and documentation including photographs and maps of cultural resources; included are the processes of locating, identifying and recording sites, structures, buildings, objects and districts through library and archival research, information from persons knowledgeable about cultural resources and varying levels of intensity of on-the-ground field surveys.

Class I: A professionally prepared study that compiles, analyzes and synthesizes all available data on cultural resources. Information sources for this study include published and unpublished documents, Bureau inventory records, institutional site files and state and national register files. Class I inventories may have prehistoric, historic and ethnological/sociological elements. These inventories are periodically updated to include new data from other studies and Class II and III inventories (see next entries).

Class II: A professionally conducted, statistically based sample survey designed to describe the probable density, diversity and distribution of cultural properties found in a large area. This is accomplished by projecting the results of intensive survey carried out over limited portions of the target area. Within individual sample units, survey aims, methods and intensities are the same as those applied in Class III inventory (see below). Class II inventory may be conducted in several phases using different sample designs to improve statistical reliability.

Class III: A professionally conducted intensive survey of an entire target area aimed at locating and recording all visible cultural properties. This survey is accomplished through systematic inspections commonly carried out by a crew of trained observers who walk a series of close-interval parallel transects until the area has been thoroughly examined.

CULTURAL RESOURCE SITE: A physical location of past human activities or events. Cultural resource sites are extremely variable in size and range from the location of a single cultural resource object to a cluster of cultural resource structures with associated objects and features. Prehistoric and historic sites which are recorded as cultural resources have sociocultural or scientific values and meet criterion of being more than 50 years old.

CURRENT SCIENTIFIC USE: A cultural resource is the subject of an on-going scientific or historical study at the time of evaluation.

CUSTODIAL GRAZING MANAGEMENT ("C" Category): A limited form of rangeland management employed when the percentage of public lands is small, when public land is scheduled to be transferred from public ownership or when conditions are not conducive to other management. Under custodial management, an allottee is not required to follow a specified grazing system. BLM licenses custodial allotments only for the capacity of the public land but does not control overall livestock numbers, e.g., does not assign AUMs.

DEFERRED-ROTATION GRAZING: Moving livestock to various parts of a range in succeeding years or seasons to provide for seed production, plant vigor and for seedling growth.

DESERT PAVEMENT: A nearly flat desert soil surface consisting of a thin layer of pebbles covered with dark-brown varnish or iron and manganese oxides.

DESIGNATED CORRIDOR: A linear area of land with defined and recognized boundaries and capacities having ecological, technical, economic, social or similar advantages over other areas for the present or future location of rights-of-way and which have been identified and designated by legal public notice

ECOSYSTEM: A complex self-sustaining natural system which includes living and nonliving components of the environment and the circulation of matter and energy between organisms and their environment.

EFFECT (Cultural Resources): Any change in the characteristics which contribute to the use(s) determined appropriate for a cultural resource or to the qualities that qualify a cultural property for the National Register. Determination of effect is guided by criteria in the regulations of the Advisory Council, 36 CFR Part 800.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (EA): The procedure for analyzing the impacts of some proposed action on a given environment and the documentation of the analysis. An EA is similar to an environmental impact statement (EIS) but is generally smaller in scope. An EA may be preliminary to an EIS.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT (EIS): A written analysis of the impacts on the environment of a proposed project or resource management plan.

EPHEMERAL GRAZING: Seasonal livestock use of ephemeral plants (see Annual Plants).

EROSION: The wearing away of the soil and surface by running water, wind, ice or other geological agents.

EVALUATION (Cultural Resources): The analysis of cultural resource inventory records, the application of professional judgment to identify characteristics that contribute to possible uses for recorded cultural resources, and the recommendation of appropriate use(s) for each resource or group of resources. National Register eligibility criteria, 36 CFR Part 60, are interpreted through or with reference to Bureau evaluation criteria.

EXOTIC: Not native to the place where found; pertains to plants and animals in this RMP-EIS.

EXTENSIVE RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA: In these areas, significant recreation opportunities and problems are limited and intensive recreation management is not required. Minimal management actions related to the Bureau's stewardship responsibilities are adequate in these areas.

FEDERAL LAND POLICY AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 1976 (FLPMA): Public Law 94-579, which gives BLM the legal authority to establish public land policy, to establish guidelines for administering such policy and to provide for the management, protection, development and enhancement of the public lands.

FEDERAL LANDS: Lands owned by the United States, without reference to how the lands were acquired or which federal agency administers the lands, including mineral or coal estates underlying private surface.

FLOODPLAIN: The nearly level alluvial plain that borders a stream or river and is subject to inundation during high water periods; the relatively flat area or lowlands adjoining a body of standing or flowing water which has been or might be covered by floodwaters.

FORAGE: All browse and herbaceous food available to and usable by grazing animals. Forage value varies with palatability, nutritive content, productivity, availability, season of use, type of animal being grazed, etc.

FORBS: Herbs other than grass; pertains to grazing and wildlife habitat.

FOREGROUND-MIDDLEGROUND: The area visible from a travel route, use area or other observer position to a distance of three to five miles (used in visual resource management).

FLYWAY: An established air route of migratory birds.

GRANDFATHERED USE: A mineral, grazing or right-of-way use that was on the land on the date that the Federal Land Policy and Management Act was approved (FLPMA; October 21, 1976). Under BLM's Interim Management Policy and Guidelines for Lands Under Wilderness Review (BLM, 1979), grandfathered uses may continue on lands under wilderness review in the same manner and degree as on the date of FLPMA's approval, even if such uses impair wilderness suitability. These uses, however, must be regulated to ensure that they do not unnecessarily degrade these lands.

GRAZING PREFERENCE: The total number (active and suspended non-use) of animal-unit months of livestock grazing on public land apportioned and attached to base property owned or controlled by a permittee.

HABITAT: The place where an animal or plant normally lives, often characterized by a dominant plant and co-dominant form (pinyon juniper habitat).

HABITAT MANAGEMENT PLAN: A written and officially approved plan for a specific geographic area which identifies wildlife habitat and related objectives, establishes the sequence of actions for achieving objectives and outlines procedures for evaluating accomplishments.

HUNTER DAY: One person hunting during any part of one day.

IMPROVE GRAZING MANAGEMENT ("I" Category): A form of grazing management for rangeland in unsatisfactory condition that has production potential higher than present levels, but also has resource-use conflicts or unsatisfactory management. BLM intensively monitors the range to detect the results of "improve grazing management". Allotment plans are implemented.

INHOLDINGS: State or privately-owned land inside a wilderness study area.

INSIDE THE LEVEE: Lands between the flood control levee and the river.

INTENSIVE RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES: Concentrated or exhaustive use of recreation resources.

INTENSIVE MANAGEMENT: Managing vegetation or other resources through a system to obtain desired results.

INTERIM MANAGEMENT POLICY AND GUIDELINES FOR LANDS UNDER WILDERNESS REVIEW (IMP): A BLM document, dated December 12, 1979, which defines the policy for management of wilderness study areas so as not to impair their suitability for preservation as wilderness. The IMP will apply to these lands until Congress determines whether or not they are to be designated wilderness.

KNOWN GEOLOGIC STRUCTURES (KGS): Areas known to contain producible oil and gas deposits.

LEASABLE MINERALS: Minerals such as coal, oil shale, oil and gas, phosphate, potash, sodium, geothermal resources and all other minerals that may be acquired under the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920, as amended.

LEASE: An instrument through which interests are transferred from one party to another, subject to certain obligations and considerations.

LEGAL DESCRIPTION: The description of a particular parcel of land according to the official plat of its cadastral survey, including Township, Range and Section numbers.

LOCATABLE MINERALS: Any valuable mineral that is not salable or leasable, including gold, silver, copper, tungsten and uranium, etc. (Maley 1983).

LONG-TERM: Up to 20 years following the beginning of the implementation phase for the RMP.

LONG-TERM IMPACTS: Impacts occuring 5 to 20 years or more following implementation of action.

MAINTAIN GRAZING MANAGEMENT ("M" Category): A form of grazing management for rangeland already in satisfactory condition that provides for no special programs or change in existing impact. Under maintained management, BLM monitors the range to detect undesirable conditions. Allotment management plans can be implemented if desired.

MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK PLANS (MFPs): The 1975 land use plans for public lands in the Yuma District that provide a set of goals, objectives and constraints for a specific planning area to guide the development of detailed plans for the management of each resource.

MANAGEMENT SITUATION ANALYSIS (MSA): A step in the BLM planning process that identifies existing management, physical resources and opportunities to meet the needs, concerns and issues identified through resource management planning. The MSA results in a reference document, which is kept in the resource area office. The MSA document is open for public inspection but is not distributed to the public.

MANAGEMENT USE: A cultural resource is used for controlled experimental study which would result in its physical alteration. This study is conducted to obtain specific information on a) the kinds and rates of natural and human-caused deterioration or b) the effectiveness of protection measures.

MIDDENS: A refuse area associated with villages or camps (Cultural Resources); a dunghill (Wildlife Habitat).

MINERAL ENTRY: The location of mining claims by an individual to protect his right to a valuable mineral.

MINERAL ESTATE: Mineral ownership.

MITIGATION: The lessening of a potential adverse effect by applying appropriate protection measures, the recovery of cultural resource data or other measures.

MITIGATION MEASURES: Methods or procedures committed to by BLM for the purpose of reducing or lessening the impacts of an action.

MULTIPLE-USE: The management of public lands and their various resource values so that they are used in the combination that will best meet present and future public needs.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) OF 1969: A law enacted on January 1, 1970, that established a national policy to maintain conditions under which man and nature can exist in productive harmony and fulfill the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations of Americans. It established the Council on Environmental Quality for coordinating environmental matters at the federal level and to serve as advisor to the President on such matters. The law made all federal actions and proposals which could have significant impact on the environment subject to review by federal, state and local environmental authorities.

NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT (NHPA): The primary federal law providing for the protection and preservation of our cultural resources. Making it a national policy to preserve our cultural heritage, NHPA established the National Register of Historic Places, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and State Historic Preservation Officers.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES (NRHP): A list of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology and culture maintained by the Secretary of the Interior. Expanded as authorized by Section 2(b) of the Historic Sites Act of 1935 (16 U.S.C. 462) and Section 101(a)(1) (A) of the National Historic Preservation Act.

NATIONAL REGISTER QUALITY SITE: A cultural resource site determined to be eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places by virtue of its local, state or national significance.

GLOSSARY

NATURAL AREA: Lands managed for a) retention of their typical or unusual plant or animal types, associations or other biotic phenomena or b) their outstanding scenic, geologic, soil or aquatic features or processes.

NATURALNESS: Appearing to be affected primarily by the forces of nature, with human influence largely unnoticeable.

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE (ORV): Any motorized track or wheeled vehicle designed for crosscountry travel over any type of natural terrain.

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE DESIGNATIONS: Open — Designated areas and trails where ORVs may be operated (subject to operating regulations and vehicle standards set forth in BLM Manuals 8341 and 8343).

Limited — Designated areas and trails where the use of ORVs is subject to restrictions, such as limiting the number or types of vehicles allowed, dates and times of use (seasonal restrictions); limiting use to existing roads and trails or limiting use to designated roads and trails. Combinations of restrictions are possible, such as limiting use to certain types of vehicles during certain times of the year.

Closed — Designated areas and trails where the use of ORVs is permanently or temporarily prohibited. Emergency use of vehicles is allowed.

100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN: Low lands and relatively flat areas adjacent to a water body that are subject to a 1% or greater chance of flooding in any given year, usually between the levees.

OUTSIDE THE LEVEE: Lands protected from the river by the flood control levee.

OUTSTANDING: Standing out among others of its kind; conspicuous, prominent or superior to others of its kind, distinguished or excellent as used in the description of wilderness characteristics.

OUTSTANDING NATURAL AREAS: Natural areas established to preserve scenic values and areas of natural wonder.

PERENNIAL GRAZING: Yearlong livestock use.

PERENNIAL PLANT: One with a life cycle of three or more years.

PLACER DEPOSIT: An alluvial or glacial deposit, as of sand or gravel, containing particles of gold or other valuable minerals.

PREDATION: The act of preying on other animals: food is obtained by killing and consuming animals.

PRELIMINARILY SUITABLE (WSAs): A wilderness recommendation made at any stage prior to the time when the Secretary of the Interior reports his recommendations to the President. Until the Secretary acts, the recommendation is "preliminary" because it is subject to change during administrative review.

PRIMITIVE RECREATION: Non-motorized outdoor recreation that requires undeveloped areas, e.g., those areas with wilderness opportunities.

PRIORITY USE AREA: An area where a particular resource, such as wildlife habitat, would receive management emphasis or priority. The areas are either unique, significant or best-suited for the development, management, use or protection of a resource. The principles of multiple use and sustained yield would be maintained in each priority use area. Many different uses would be allowed in these areas but the priority use would have the most emphasis. Other land uses would have limits placed on them to prevent conflicts with the priority resource. In some instances, a use totally incompatible with the priority resource would be excluded.

PRIORITY WILDLIFE SPECIES: See Species, Priority Wildlife.

PROPOSED LAND USE: Any use of lands or resources which requires an authorized officer's formal approval, whether proposed by the Bureau or by an outside applicant (used in cultural resources).

PUBLIC LAND: Vacant, unappropriated and unreserved lands that never left federal ownership; also, lands in federal ownership obtained in exchange for public lands or for timber on public lands. Land administered by the Bureau of Land Management.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Part of BLM's planning system that provides the opportunity for citizens as individuals or groups to express local, regional and national perspectives and concerns in the rule making, decisionmaking, inventory and planning processes for public lands. This includes public meetings, hearings or advisory boards or panels that may review resource management proposals and offer suggestions or criticisms for the various alternatives considered.

PUBLIC USE: A cultural property is eligible for consideration as an interpretive exhibit-in-place, a subject of supervised participation in scientific or historical study, a subject of unsupervised collecting under permit or related educational and recreational uses by members of the general public.

RANGE (RANGELAND): Land dominated by vegetation that can be grazed or browsed and whose husbandry is provided routinely through grazing management instead of renovations or cultural treatment (Range Term Glossary Committee, 1974).

RANGE CONDITION: The present state of vegetation of a range site in relation to the climax plant community of that site. Range condition is basically an ecological rating of the plant community. Air-dry weight is the unit of measure used in comparing the composition and production of the present plant community with that of the climax community.

RANGE CONDITION TREND: Direction of change, whether stable, toward (upward) or away (downward) from the site's potential.

RANGE IMPROVEMENT: A structure, development or treatment used to rehabilitate, protect or improve the public lands to enhance the range resource.

RANGELAND MONITORING PROGRAM: A program designed to measure changes in plant composition, ground cover, animal populations and climatic conditions on the public rangeland. Vegetation studies are used to monitor changes in rangeland condition and determine the reason for any changes that are occurring. The vegetation studies consist of actual use, utilization trend and climatic conditions.

RAPTOR: Birds of prey with sharp talons and strongly curved beaks, e.g., hawks, owls, vultures, eagles.

RECREATION AND PUBLIC PURPOSES ACT (R&PP): This act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to lease or convey public lands for recreational and public purposes specified conditions of states or their political subdivisions and to non-profit corporations and associations.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITY: Those outdoor recreational activities which offer satisfaction in a particular physical, social and management setting in the EIS area. These activities are primarily hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, photography, boating and camping.

RESEARCH NATURAL AREA (RNA): A natural area established and maintained for research and education, which may include a) typical or unusual plant or animal types, associations or other biotic phenomena or b) characteristic or outstanding geologic, soil or aquatic features or processes. The public may be excluded or restricted from such areas to protect studies.

RESOURCE AREA: The smallest administrative subdivision of a BLM district.

RESOURCE-BASED RECREATION: Recreation relating to the natural features of the land.

REST-ROTATION GRAZING: A grazing system in which one part of the range is left ungrazed for an entire year or longer, while other parts are grazed for a portion or all of a growing season.

RIPARIAN AREA: A specialized form of wetland with characteristic vegetation restricted to areas along or adjacent to rivers and streams, also periodically, flooded lake and reservoir shore areas, as well as lakes with stable water levels.

RIPARIAN COMMUNITIES: Vegetative communities found in association with either open water or water close to the surface; includes meadows, aspen and other trees and shrubs in association with streams and other water sources.

RIPARIAN HABITAT, AQUATIC (STREAMSIDE): Vegetative communities found in association with streams (both perennial and intermittent), lakes, ponds and other open water. This unique habitat, comprising less than 1% of the land area, is crucial to the continued existence of the fish species known to occur. Streamside vegetation maintains high-water tables, stabilizes streambanks, creates quality fishery habitat and maintains water quality. It is also essential to most terrestrial wildlife species.

RIPARIAN HABITAT, TERRESTRIAL: Vegetative communities found in association with either open water or water close to the surface includes such habitat features as meadows, aspen stands, and/or other trees and shrubs. This unique habitat is crucial to the continued existence of the majority of the terrestrial wildlife species known to occur in the district.

ROAD: Vehicle routes which have been improved and maintained by mechanical means to ensure relatively regular and continuous use. A way maintained solely by the passage of vehicles does not constitute a road (see Vehicle Way).

RUNOFF: The water that flows on the land surface from an area in response to rainfall or snowmelt. As used in this RMP, runoff from an area becomes streamflow when it reaches a channel.

SALABLE MINERALS: Minerals such as common varieties of sand, stone, gravel, pumicite and clay that may be acquired under the Materials Act of 1947, as amended.

SCENIC QUALITY: The degree of harmony, contrast and variety within a landscape (used in visual resources management).

SCOPING PROCESS: An early and open process for determining the scope of issues to be addressed and for identifying the significant issues related to a proposed action. Scoping may involve public meetings, field interviews with representatives of agencies and interest groups, discussions with resource specialists and managers, written comments in response to news releases, direct mailings and articles about the proposed action and scoping meetings.

SENSITIVE SPECIES: See Species, Sensitive.

SHERD: A fragment of a pottery vessel.

SHORT-TERM: The period of time needed to implement management's decisions following the completion of the EIS, approximately five years.

SHORT-TERM IMPACTS: Temporary impacts lasting less than five years and expected to occur during or immediately following implementation of action.

SIGNIFICANCE: A high degree of importance as indicated by either quantitative measurements or qualitative judgments. Significant issues and impacts require explicit consideration in the preparation of a plan. Significance may be determined by evaluating characteristics pertaining to location, extent, consequence and duration of an action or impact.

SIKES ACT — (Public Law 93-452): An Act passed to expand the authority for carrying out conservation and rehabilitation programs on public lands. Provides for the development of comprehensive plans for conservation and rehabilitation programs by the Secretary of the Interior in consultation with state agencies. It also provides for entering into cooperative agreements between the Secretary of the Interior and state agencies for the management of wildlife habitat on public lands.

SOCIO-CULTURAL USE: A social and/or cultural group perceives that a cultural resource, place, structure or geographic location has characteristics which help to maintain the group's heritage or identity.

SOIL HORIZON: A layer of soil, approximately parallel to the surface, that has distinct characteristics produced by soil-forming processes.

SOLITUDE: The state of being alone or remote from habitations; isolation or a lonely, unfrequented or secluded place as used in describing wilderness opportunities.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Resources that are not required for an area to be designated wilderness but that are considered in assessing the wilderness potential of an area. Such values include ecologic, geologic and other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historic value.

SPECIAL RECREATION MANAGEMENT AREA (SRMA): Areas requiring explicit recreation management to achieve the Bureau's recreation objectives and to provide specific recreation opportunities. Special management areas are identified in the RMP, which also defines the management objectives for the area. BLM's recreation investments are concentrated in these areas.

SPECIES, ENDANGERED: An animal or plant whose prospects of survival and reproduction are in immediate jeopardy, and as further defined by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

SPECIES COMPOSITION: PrPoportions of various plant species in relation to the total on a given area; may be expressed in percentages based on weight, crown cover or basal intercept.

SPECIES, PRIORITY WILDLIFE: Those fish and wildlife species listed or proposed for listing by a state wildlife agency or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as endangered, threatened or sensitive candidate; and species of significant economic or recreational value.

SPECIES, SENSITIVE: A designation which is (1) applied to species not yet officially listed but which are undergoing a status review or are proposed for listing according to Federal Register notices published by the Secretary of the Interior or, the Secretary of Commerce or in accordance with comparable state documents published by state officials; (2) applied to species whose populations are consistently small and widely dispersed or whose ranges are restricted to a few localities, such that any appreciable reduction in numbers, habitat availability, or habitat condition might lead toward extinction or (3) applied to species whose numbers are declining so rapidly that official listing may become necessary as a conservation measure.

SPECIES, THREATENED: Any species which is likely to become an endangered species within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range, and as is further defined by the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended.

SPLIT ESTATE: The surface estate and the mineral estate of a parcel of land are in different ownership.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER: The official who is appointed by the Governor to be responsible for administering the State Historic Preservation Program pursuant to Section 101(b)(1) of the National Historic Preservation Act.

STOCKING RATE: Number of animals on a given area of land at any time. It may be above, below or equal to the proper carrying capacity and may be expressed as animal/unit months per acre, animal-unit years per section or acres per animal-unit month or year.

SUCCESSION, PLANT: Process of vegetational development whereby an area becomes successively occupied by different plant communities of higher ecological order.

SUSTAINED YIELD: The achievement and maintenance in perpetuity of a high level of annual or regular periodic output of the various renewable resources of the public lands consistent with multiple use.

SWITCHBACK (DEFERRED) GRAZING: The discontinuance of livestock grazing on an area for a specified period of time during the growing season to promote plant reprodution or restoration of vigor by old plants.

TERRESTRIAL HABITAT: Habitat pertaining to the land as distinct from the water.

TOPOGRAPHY: The exact physical features and configuration of a place or region; the detailed and accurate description of the landforms of a place or region.

TRADITIONAL LIFEWAY VALUE: The quality of being useful in or important to the maintenance of a specific social and/or cultural group's traditional system of religious belief, cultural practice or social interaction, not closely identified with specific locations. Traditional lifeway values are taken into account through planning and environmental assessment, and may be subject to inventory, evaluation, administrative protection and use.

TRAIL: A track, made by the passage of a vehicle, regularly used for travel. Desert washes are included as trails except where washes have been specifically closed to vehicle operation.

TRESPASS: The use of public lands without proper authority, resulting either from a willful or negligent act.

VEGETATION: Plants in general or the sum total of the plant life above and below ground in an area.

VEGETATIVE TYPE: A plant community dominated or apparently dominated by one or more species which give it a characteristic appearance or aspect. Examples include sagebrush, creosotebush, mesquite, shortgrass, tallgrass, etc. Usually a subdivision of a grazing region.

VEHICLE WAY: A vehicle route established and maintained solely by the passage of motor vehicles.

VISITOR DAY: An aggregation of 12 visitor hours, where a visitor hour is the presence of one or more persons on lands and water for outdoor recreation purposes for continuous, intermittent or simultaneous periods aggregating 60 minutes; e.g., one person for one hour, two persons for one-half hour, etc.

VISUAL RESOURCE: The land, water, vegetation and animals that comprise the scenery of an area.

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (VRM): The planning, designating and implementing of management objectives to provide acceptable levels of visual impacts for all BLM resource management activities.

VISUAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CLASSES: The degree of acceptable visual change within a characteristic landscape. A class is based upon the physical and sociological characteristics of any given homogeneous area and serves as a management objective.

Class I areas (preservation) provide for natural ecological changes only. This class includes primitive areas, some natural areas, some wild and scenic rivers and other similar sites where landscape modification activities should be restricted.

Class II (retention of the landscape character) includes areas where changes in any of the basic elements (form, line, color or texture) caused by management activity should not be evident in the characteristic landscape.

Class III (partial retention of the landscape character) includes areas where changes in the basic elements (form, line, color or texture) caused by management activity may be evident in the characteristic landscape. However, the changes should remain subordinate to the visual strength of the existing character.

Class IV (modification of the landscape character) includes areas where changes may subordinate the original composition and character; however, they should reflect what could be a natural occurrence within the characteristic landscape.

Class V (retention or enhancement of the landscape character) includes areas where change is needed. This class applies to areas where the landscape character has been so disturbed that rehabilitation is needed or where the quality class has been reduced because of unacceptable intrusions. It should be considered an interim short-term classification until one of the other classes can be reached through rehabilitation or enhancement.

VULNERABILITY: The condition where a resource or area is in danger of extensive degradation in the immediate or foreseeable future.

YEARLONG GRAZING: Continuous grazing for a 12-month period or for a calendar year.

WATER QUALITY: The chemical, physical and biological characteristics of water with respect to its suitability for a particular use.

WATERSHED: A total area of land above a given point on a waterway that contributes runoff water to the flow at that point.

WETLANDS: Permanently wet or intermittently flooded areas where the water table (fresh, saline or brackish) is at, near or above the soil surface for extended intervals, where hydric wet soil conditions are normally exhibited and where water depths generally do not exceed two meters.

WILDERNESS: An area formally designated by Congress as a part of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

WILDERNESS CHARACTERISTICS: Identified by Congress in the 1964 Wilderness Act: size, naturalness, outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation and supplemental values such as geological, archaeological, historical, ecological, scenic or other features. It is required that the area possess at least 5,000 acres of contiguous public land or be of a size to make practical its preservation and use in an unimpaired condition; be substantially natural or generally appear to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the impairing of man being substantially unnoticeable; and have either outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Congress stated that a wilderness area may also have supplemental values, which include ecological, geological or other features of scientific, educational, scenic or historical value.

WILDERNESS STUDY AREA (WSA): An area determined to have wilderness characteristics; subject to interdisciplinary analysis and public comment to determine wilderness suitability. Suitable areas will be recommended to the President and Congress for wilderness designation.

WILDERNESS VALUES: The wilderness characteristics and multiple resource benefits of an area.

WINDOW: Usually short, narrow passageways through constrained areas which are the most feasible potential locations for linear facilities such as powerlines and pipelines considering engineering and/or environmental factors.

WITHDRAWAL: An action that restricts the use of public lands and segregates the lands from the operation of all or some of the public land or mineral laws.

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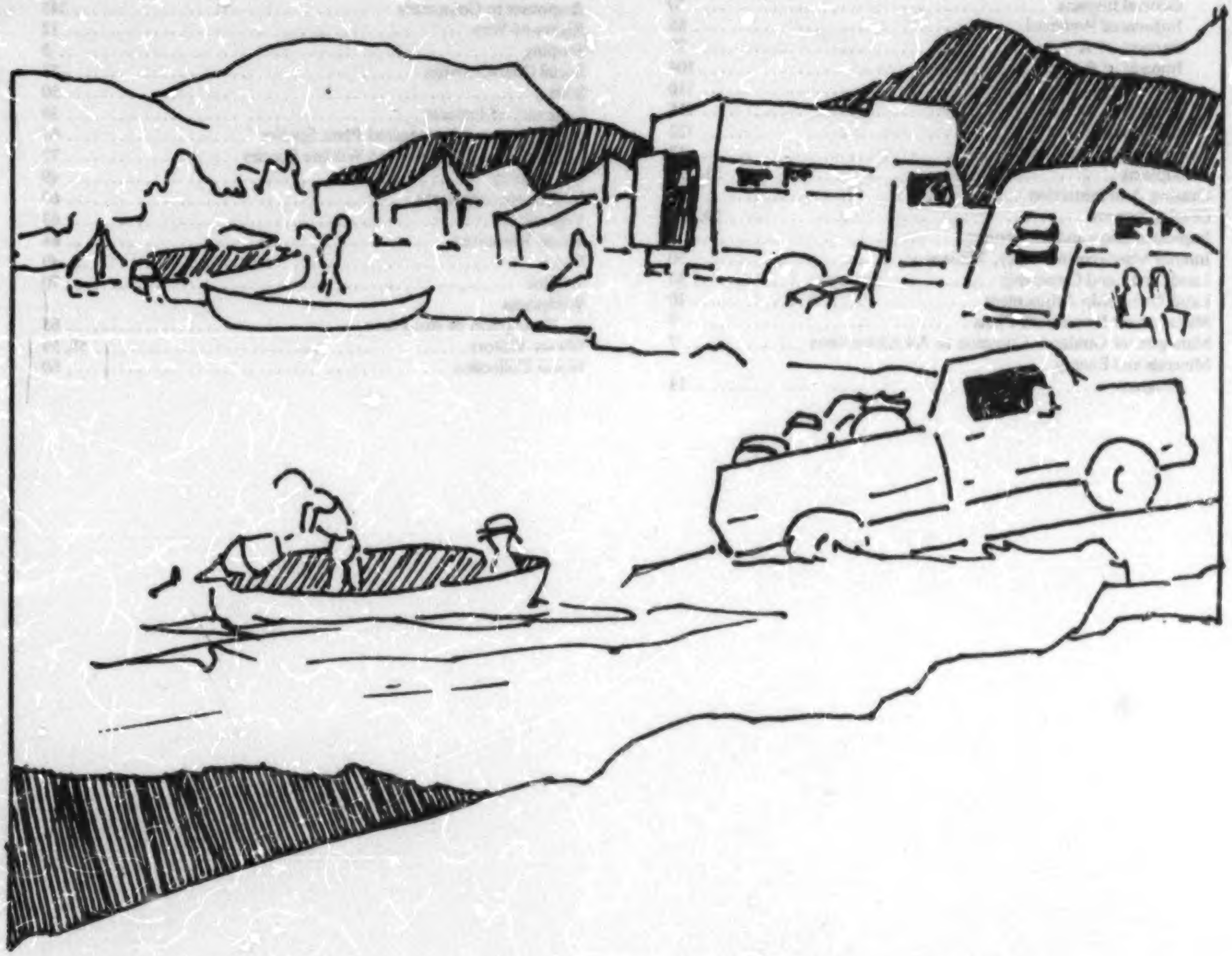

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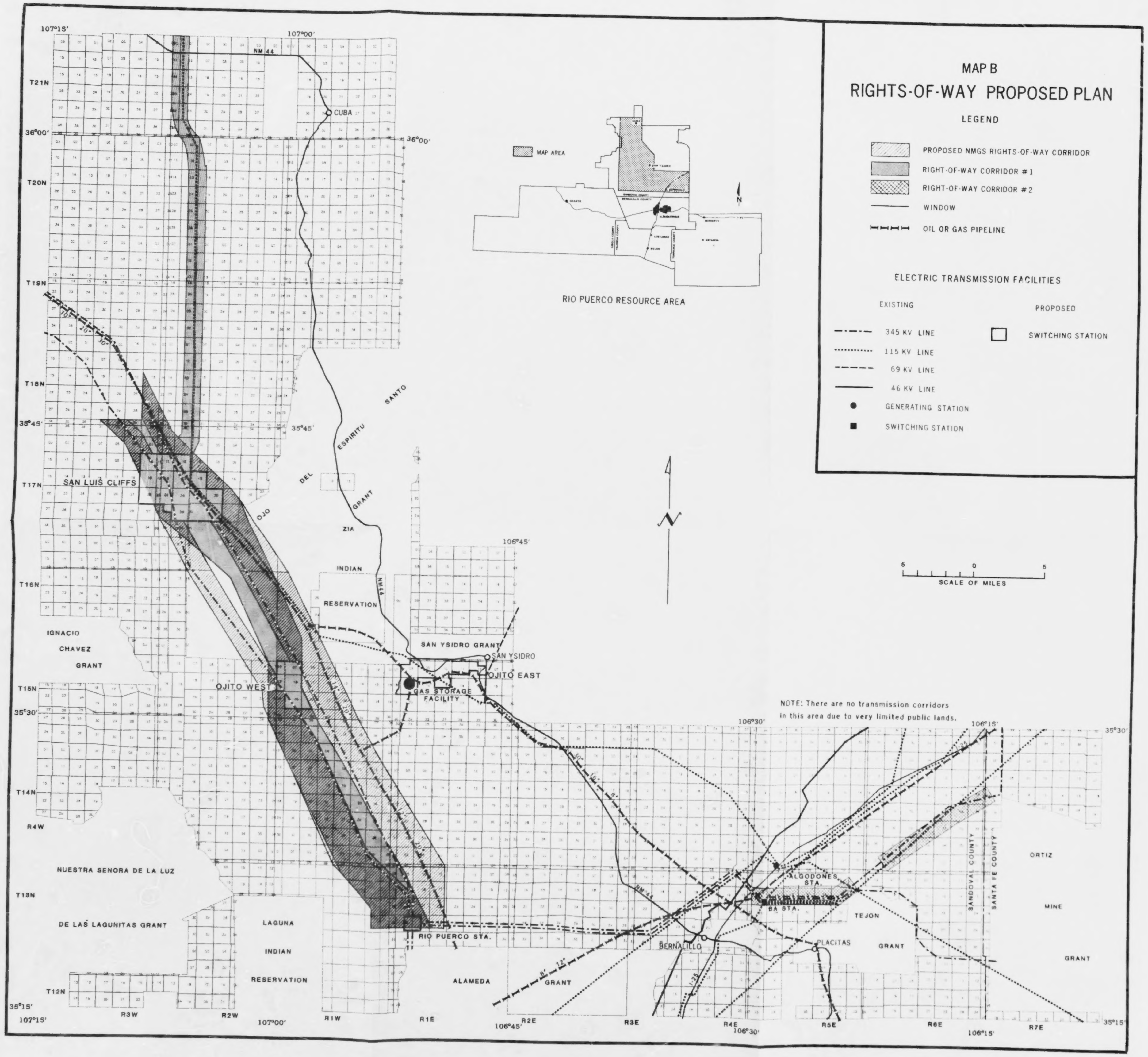
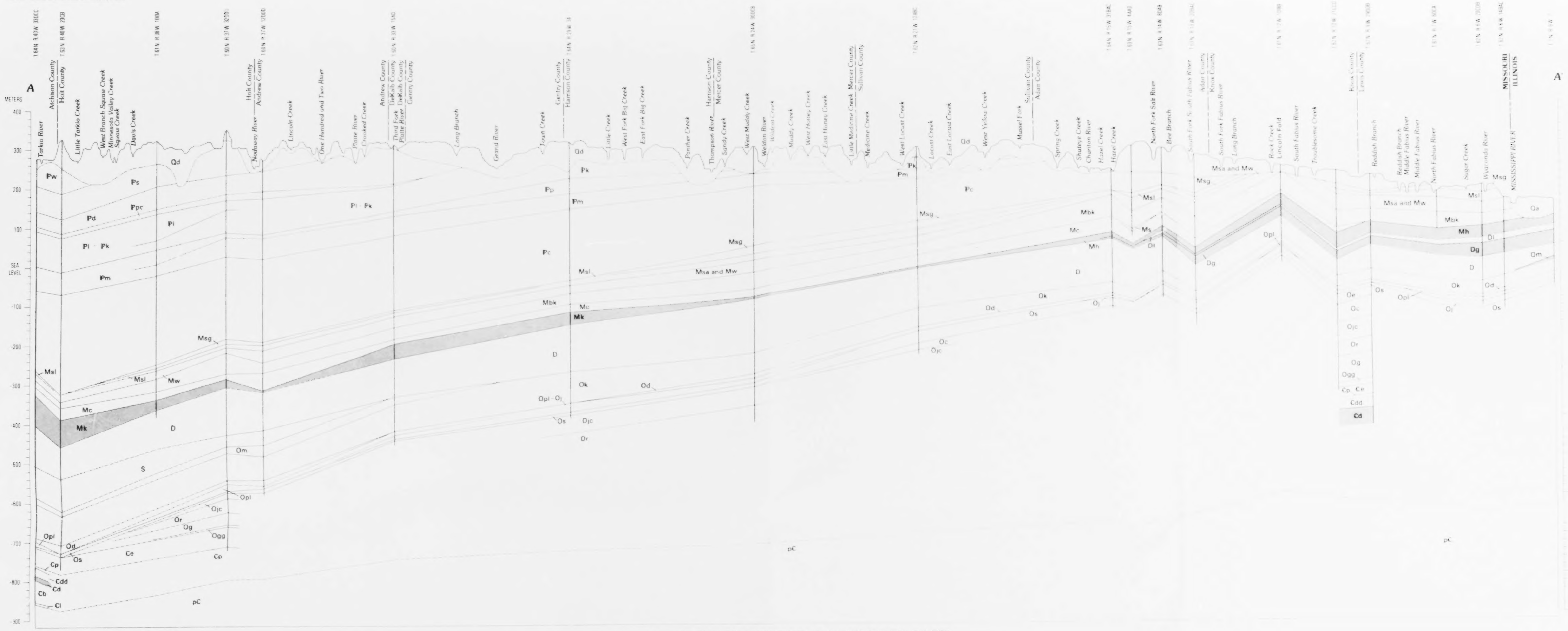


MAP B

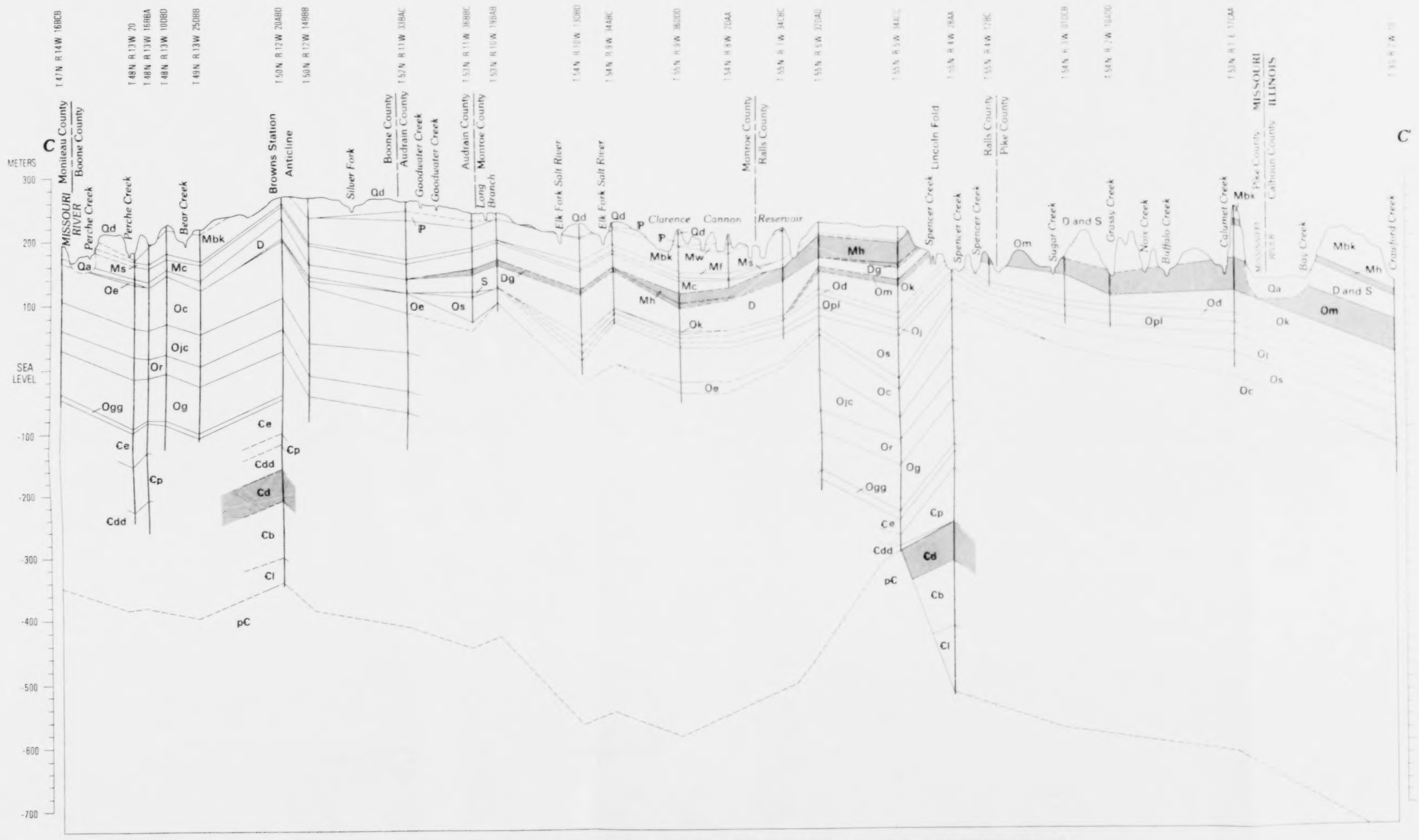
RIGHTS-OF-WAY PROPOSED PLAN

LEGEND
PROPOSED NMGS RIGHTS-OF-WAY CORRIDOR
RIGHT-OF-WAY CORRIDOR #1
RIGHT-OF-WAY CORRIDOR #2
WINDOW
OIL OR GAS PIPELINE
ELECTRIC TRANSMISSION FACILITIES
EXISTING
345 KV LINE
115 KV LINE
69 KV LINE
46 KV LINE
GENERATING STATION
SWITCHING STATION
PROPOSED
SWITCHING STATION
MAP AREA
RIO PUERCO RESOURCE AREA
N
SCALE OF MILES
5
0
5
NOTE: There are no transmission corridors in this area due to very limited public lands.
107°15'
107°00'
106°45'
106°30'
106°15'
36°00'
35°45'
35°30'
35°15'
T21N
T20N
T19N
T18N
T17N
T16N
T15N
T14N
T13N
T12N
R4W
R3W
R2W
R1W
R1E
R2E
R3E
R4E
R5E
R6E
R7E
NM 44
CUBA
SAN LUIS CLIFFS
OJO DEL ESPIRITU SANTO GRANT
ZIA INDIAN RESERVATION
SAN YSIDRO GRANT
SAN YSIDRO
OJITO EAST
OJITO WEST
GAS STORAGE FACILITY
IGNACIO CHAVEZ GRANT
NUESTRA SENORA DE LA LUZ DE LAS LAGUNITAS GRANT
LAGUNA INDIAN RESERVATION
RIO PUERCO STA.
ALAMEDA GRANT
BERNALILLO
ALGODONES STA.
BA STA.
PLACITAS
TEJON GRANT
SANDOVAL COUNTY
SANTA FE COUNTY
ORTIZ MINE GRANT

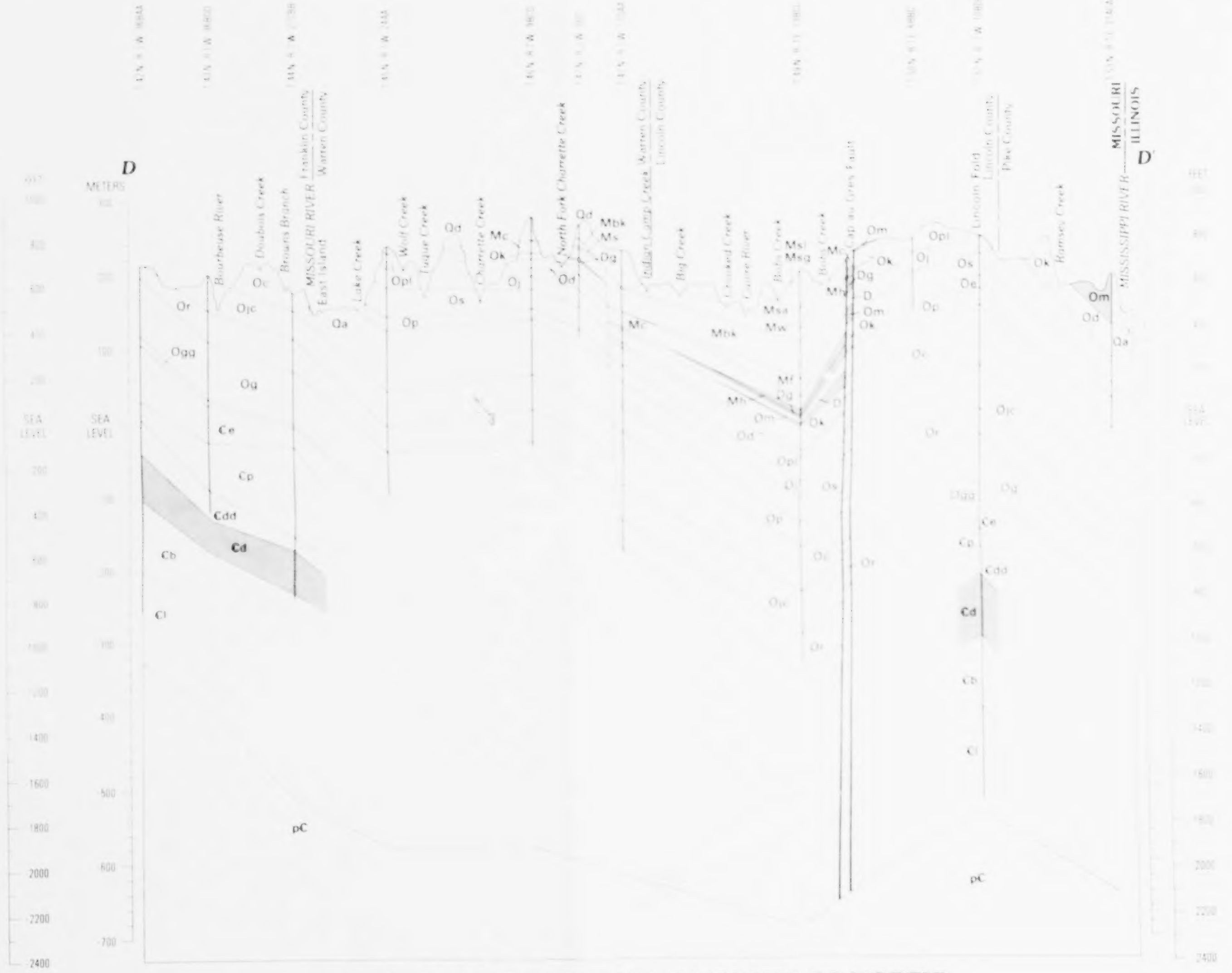
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY


A
A'
METERS
SEA LEVEL
Tarkio River
Little Tarkio Creek
Nodaway River
Grand River
Chariton River
Pw
Ps
Pd
Ppc
Pl
Pk
Pm
Pc
Qd
Msl
Mc
Mk
Mw
Mbk
Msg
Msa and Mw
D
S
Om
Opl
Od
Os
Or
Ogg
Ce
Cp
Cdd
Cd
Cb
Cl
pC

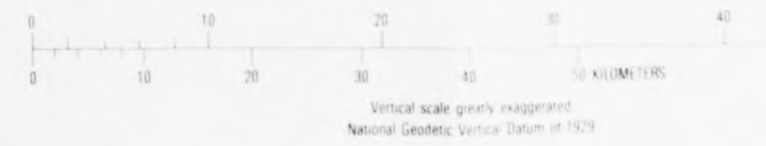
A—GEOLOGIC SECTION A–A' (WEST TO EAST)


C
C'
METERS
SEA LEVEL
MISSOURI RIVER
Browns Station Anticline
MISSOURI
ILLINOIS
Mh
Mbk
Mc
Ms
Oe
Oc
Ojc
Or
Ogg
Ce
Cp
Cdd
Cd
Cb
Cl
pC

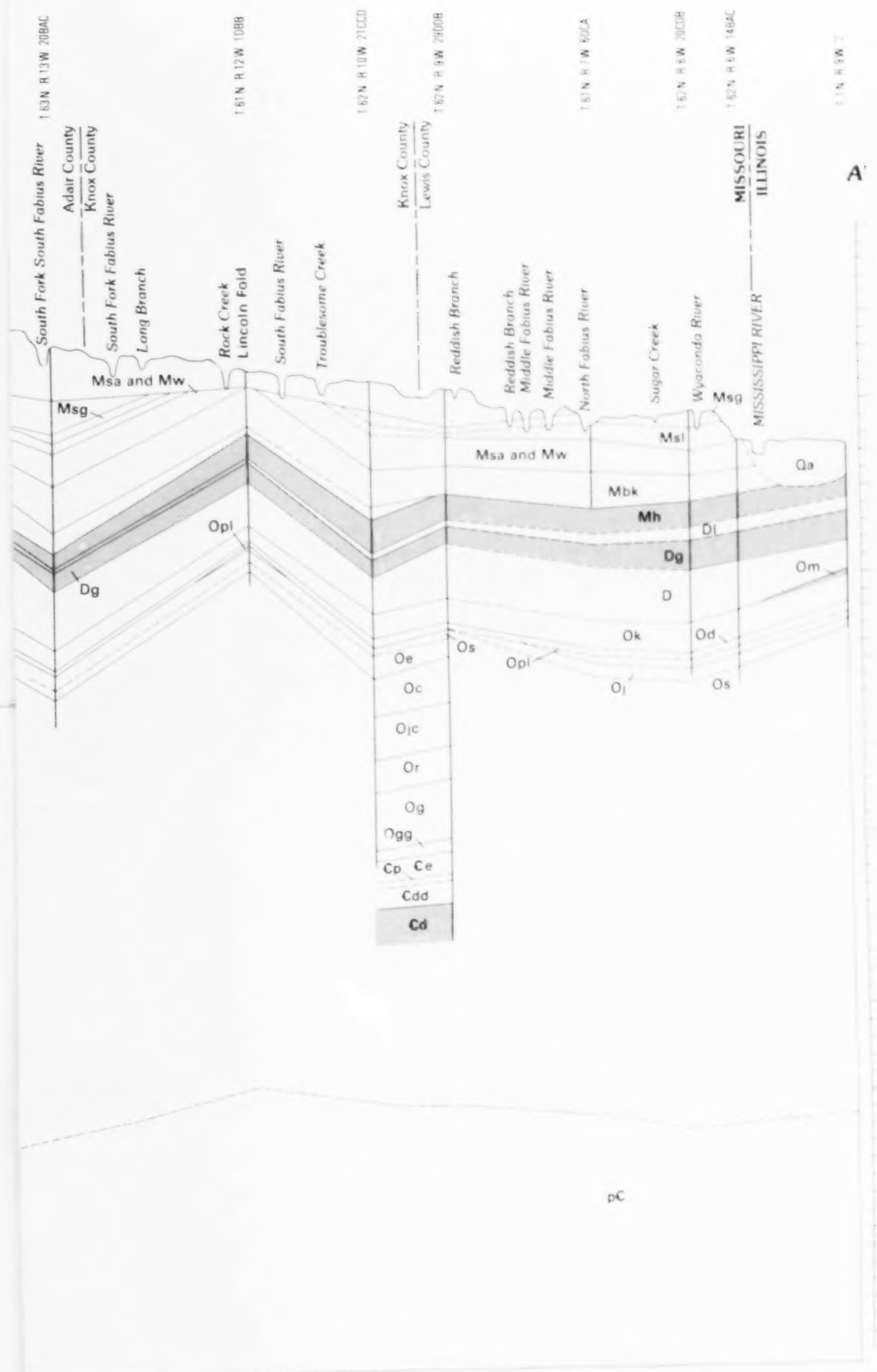
C—GEOLOGIC SECTION C–C' (SOUTHWEST TO NORTHEAST)

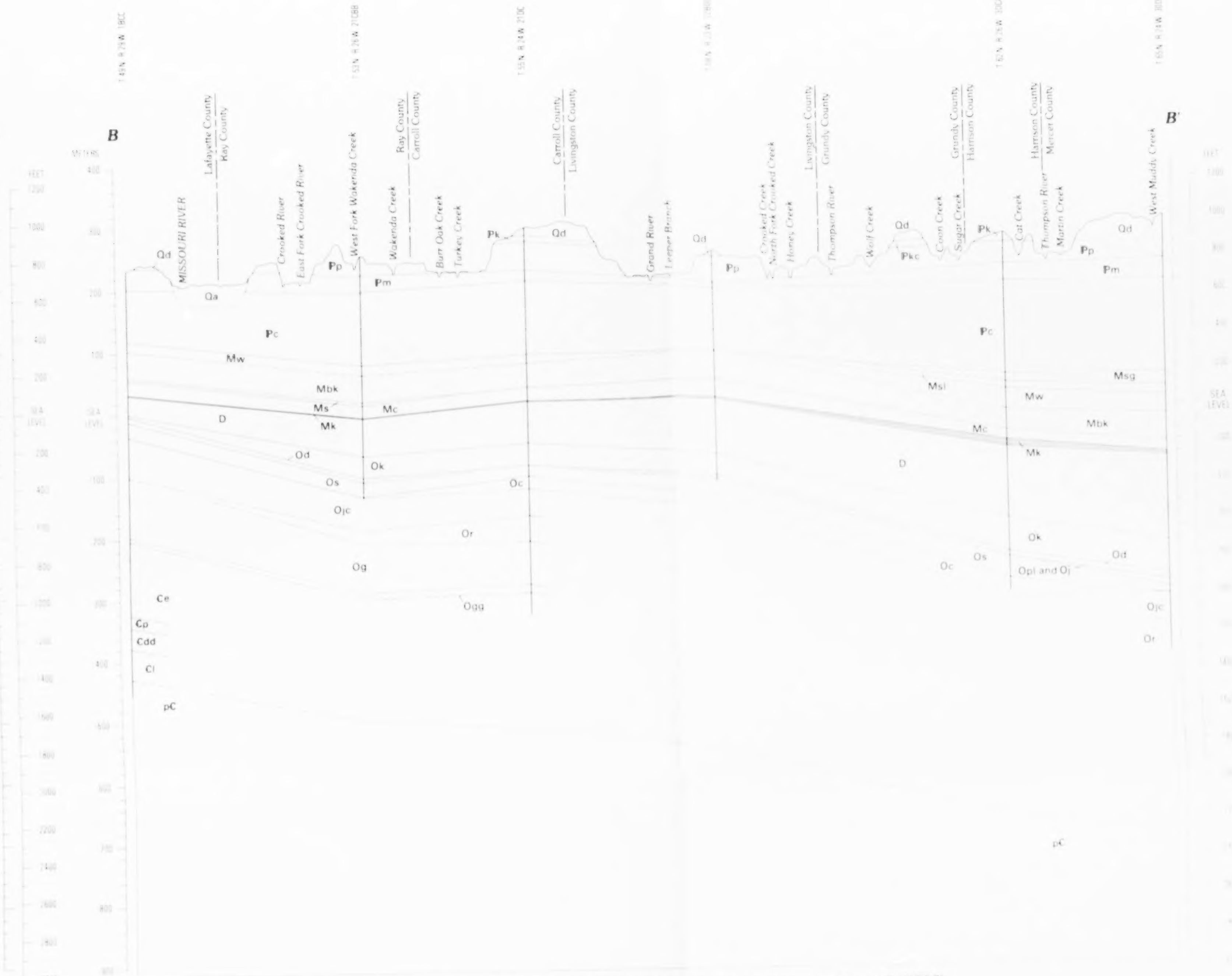

D
D'
MISSOURI
ILLINOIS
Opl
Ogg
Ce
Cp
Cdd
Cd
Cb
Cl
pC

D—GEOLOGIC SECTION D–D' (SOUTH TO NORTH)

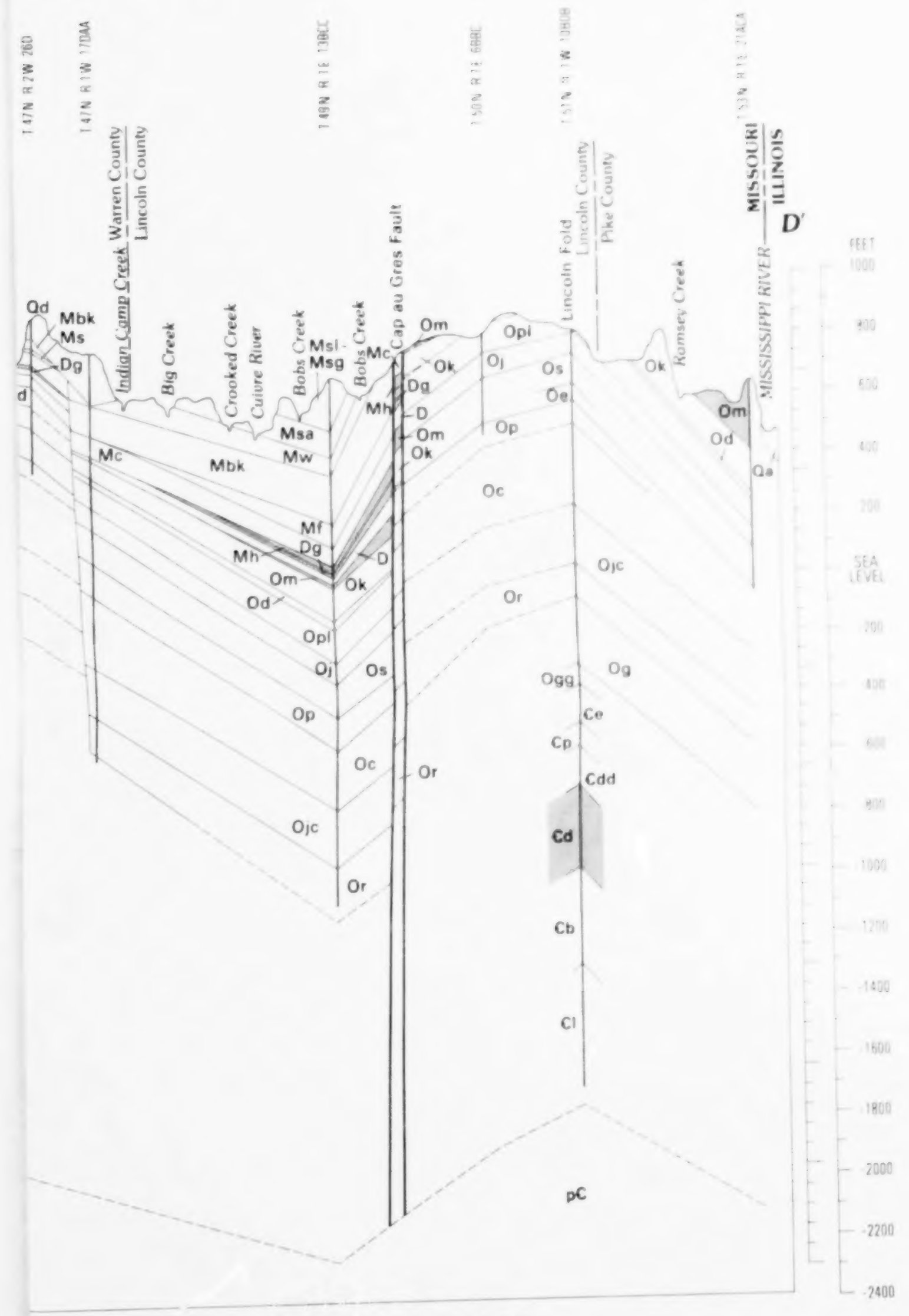


CROSS SECTIONS SHOWING GROUNDWATER SYSTEM IN NORTHERN MISSOUR


A
Mississippi River
MISSOURI
ILLINOIS
Msa and Mw
Msg
Mbk
Mh
Dg
Opl
Om
Qa
pC


B
B'
Missouri River
Qd
Pp
Pm
Ps
Mw
Mbk
Ms
Mk
Mc
D
Od
Ok
Os
Opl
Or
Og
Ogg
Ce
Cp
Cdd
Cl
pC

B—GEOLOGIC SECTION *B–B'* (SOUTH TO NORTH)


D'
MISSOURI
ILLINOIS
Mississippi River
Qd
Mbk
Ms
Mc
Mw
Msa
Msl
Msg
Mf
Om
Dd
Ok
Os
Op
Ojc
Or
Ogg
Og
Ce
Cdd
Cd
Cb
Cl
pC

TION *D–D'* (SOUTH TO NORTH)

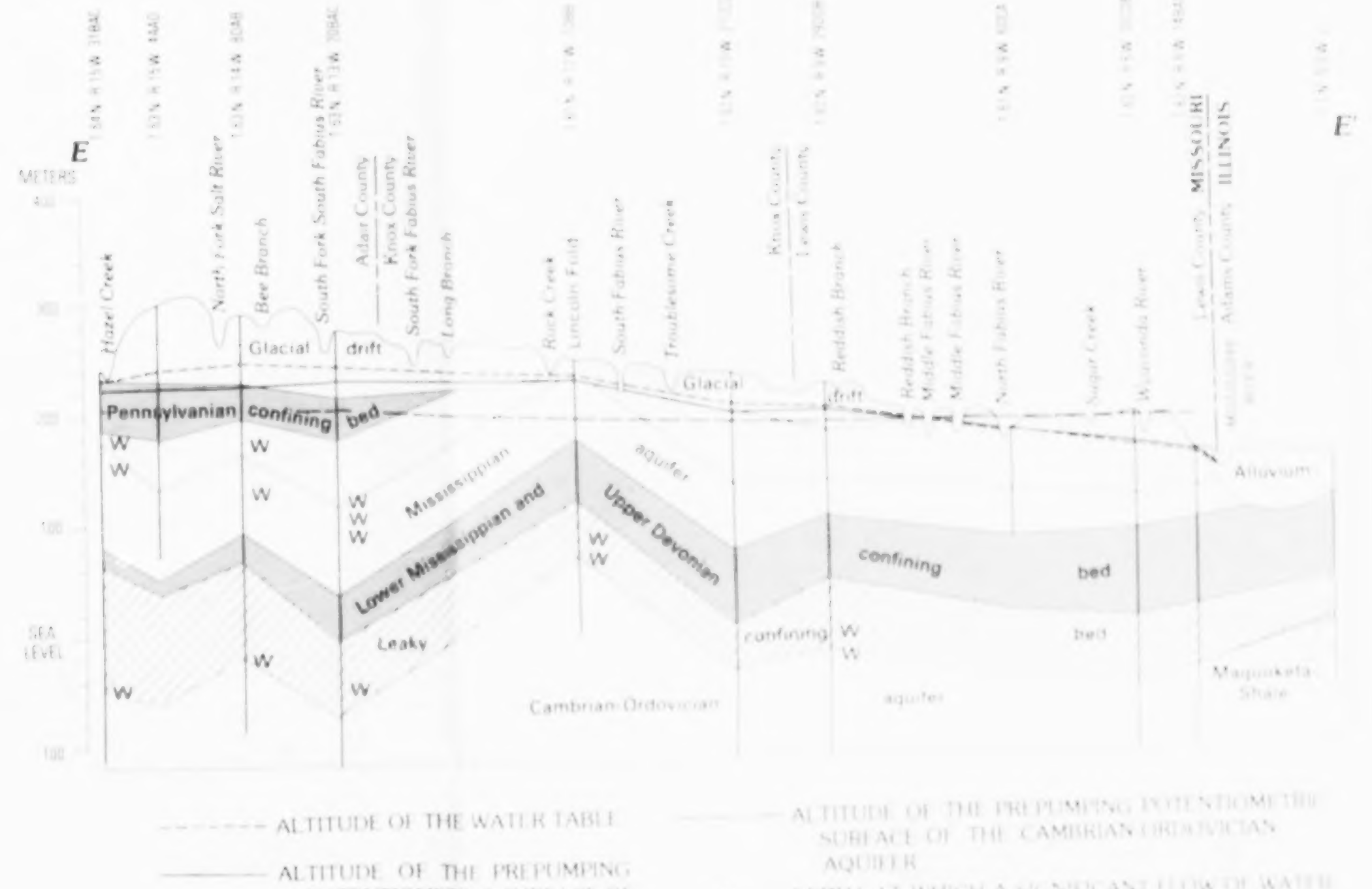
30
40
50 MILES
40
50 KILOMETERS

greatly exaggerated
c Vertical Datum of 1929

EXPLANATION

	QUATERNARY SYSTEM
Qd	Glacial Drift
Qa	Alluvium
ℙ	PENNSYLVANIAN SYSTEM
ℙw	Wabaunsee Group
ℙs	Shawnee Group
ℙd	Douglas Group
ℙpd	Pedee Group
ℙl	Lansing Group
ℙk	Kansas City Group
ℙp	Pleasanton Formation
ℙm	Marmaton Group
ℙc	Cherokee Shale
	MISSISSIPPIAN SYSTEM
Msg	Ste. Genevieve Limestone
Msl	St. Louis Limestone
Msa	Salem Limestone
Mw	Warsaw Limestone
Mbk	Burlington and Keokuk Limestones
Mf	Fern Glen Limestone
Ms	Sedalia Limestone
Mc	Chouteau Limestone
Mk	"Kinderhook shale"
Mh	Hannibal Shale
D	DEVONIAN SYSTEM
Dl	Louisiana Limestone
Dg	Grassy Creek Shale
S	SILURIAN SYSTEM
	ORDOVICIAN SYSTEM
Om	Maquoketa Shale
Ok	Kimmswick Limestone
Od	Decorah Formation
Opl	Plattin Limestone
Oj	Joachim Dolomite
Os	St. Peter Sandstone
Oe	Everton Formation
Op	Powell Dolomite
Oc	Cotter Dolomite
Ojc	Jefferson City Dolomite
Or	Roubidoux Formation
Og	Gasconade Dolomite
Ogg	Gunter Sandstone Member
	CAMBRIAN SYSTEM
Ce	Eminence Dolomite
Cp	Potosi Dolomite
Cdd	Derby–Doe Run Dolomite
Cd	Davis Formation
Cb	Bonneterre Dolomite
Cl	Lamotte Sandstone
pC	PRECAMBRIAN

Note: Shaded areas indicate shale confining units


E
E'
Glacial drift
Pennsylvanian confining bed
Mississippian
Lower Mississippian and
Upper Devonian
confining bed
Leaky
confining
bed
Cambrian-Ordovician
aquifer
Maquoketa Shale
Alluvium
W
SEA LEVEL

- - - - - - ALTITUDE OF THE WATER TABLE

——— ALTITUDE OF THE PREPUMPING POTENTIOMETRIC SURFACE OF THE MISSISSIPPIAN AQUIFER

——— ALTITUDE OF THE PREPUMPING POTENTIOMETRIC SURFACE OF THE CAMBRIAN-ORDOVICIAN AQUIFER

W DEPTH AT WHICH A SIGNIFICANT FLOW OF WATER WAS ENCOUNTERED DURING DRILLING

E—HYDROGEOLOGIC SECTION *E–E'* SHOWING RELATIVE PREPUMPING POTENTIOMETRIC SURFACES

A
B
E
A'
E'
B'
C
D
C'
D'

INDEX MAP OF MISSOURI SHOWING LOCATION OF CROSS SECTIONS

WATER SYSTEM IN NORTHERN MISSOURI